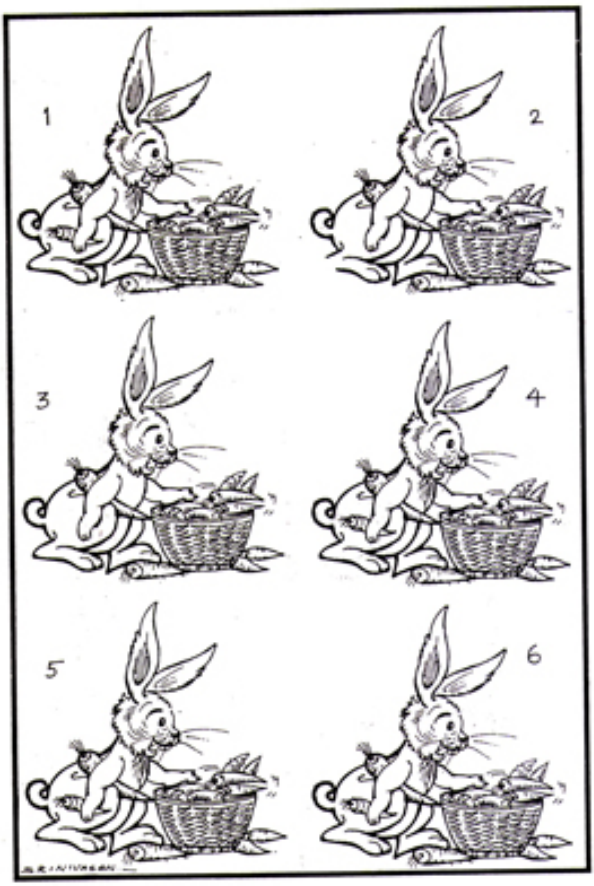
GOKULAM

The monthly magazine for children

July '99
Rs. 6/-

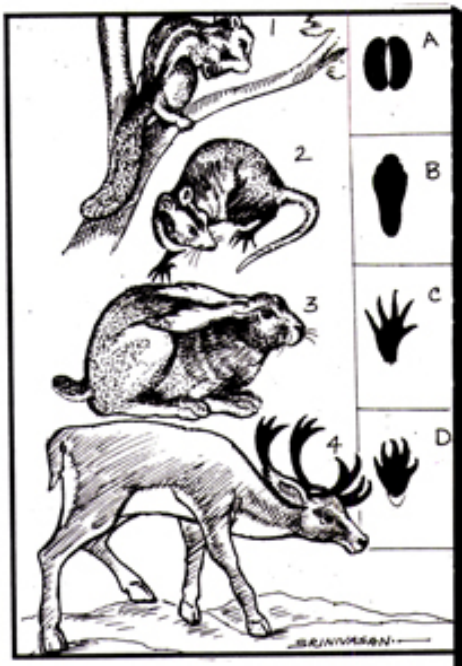
COME HOME TO A HOLIDAY PLAY!



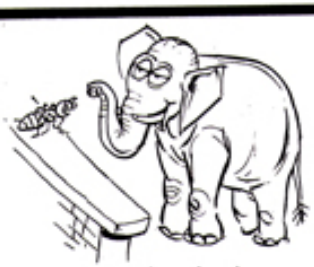
Which two pictures are similar?

Ans: 2 and 3

Find the footprint of each animal.



Ans: 4-a, 3-b, 2-c, 1-d



Ant : Dear uncle elephant where did you go? You're sweating profusely.

Elephant : I was exercising to reduce my weight.

Calf : I'm hungry. Please give me some milk sweets.

B. Ramprasad, IX A,
Jawahar H.S. School, Neyveli

Teacher : Ram, do you like your dad better or mum?

Ram : I don't like anybody who asks such questions.

GOKULAM

Vol. XII, No. 1 JULY 1999

Dear children,

The nation is facing agression and we are defending our motherland. Many soilders have lost their lives and many more, wounded. Our hearts go out to the kith and kin of those who have died and our sympathies to the wounded.

Some of our soldiers captured by Pakistan have been tortured to death and their bodies have been returned to us, badly mutilated. This is against all international conventions regarding conduct of wars and it is horrifying that the Pakistani army can behave like this.

Pakistan tried to make the world believe that the intrusion into our area is not by them but by extremist militants who are fighting for the liberation of Kashmir. But this is a blatant lie and there is ample proof to show Pakistan's direct involvement. Neither India nor the other countries of the world can be fooled by such propaganda. World opinion is with us.

The tension between India and Pakistan started shortly after both India and Pakistan attained independence. Pakistan tried to occupy Kashmir forcibly whereas the ruler of Kashmir wanted Kashmir to be part of India. There was a bitter war between India and Pakistan until United Nations' intervention resulted in cease fire.

A line of control was drawn and though we have not given up our claim to Pakistan occupied territory of Kashmir, hostilities had ended.

Now Pakistan says that the line of control is not clearly demarkated! This is not only to justify the recent intrusion but also to prepare new grounds for dispute, war and bitterness.

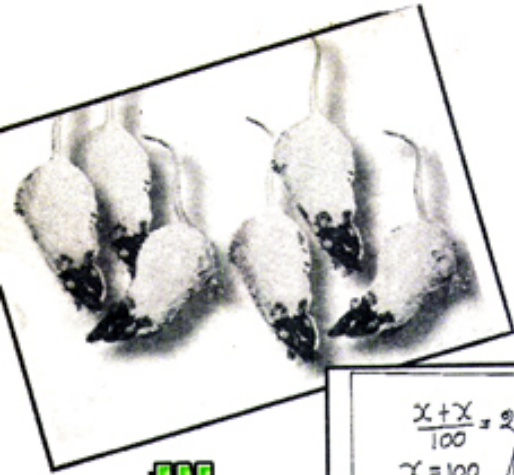
If the war-like situation now existing develops into a full-scale war, Pakistan will be the loser, both economically and militarily. Let us hope that better sense will prevail and that Pakistan will opt for peace.

We do not want a war, but if it is thrust on us we are prepared for it.

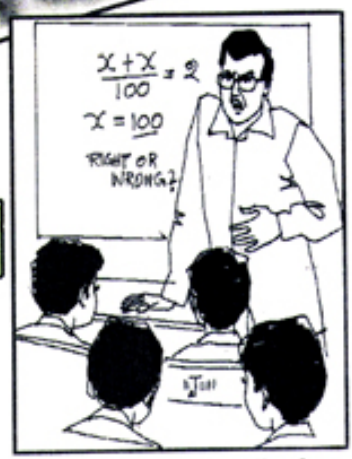
Love,

K. Rajendran,
Editor

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
— William Canton



IN GOKULAM THIS MONTH



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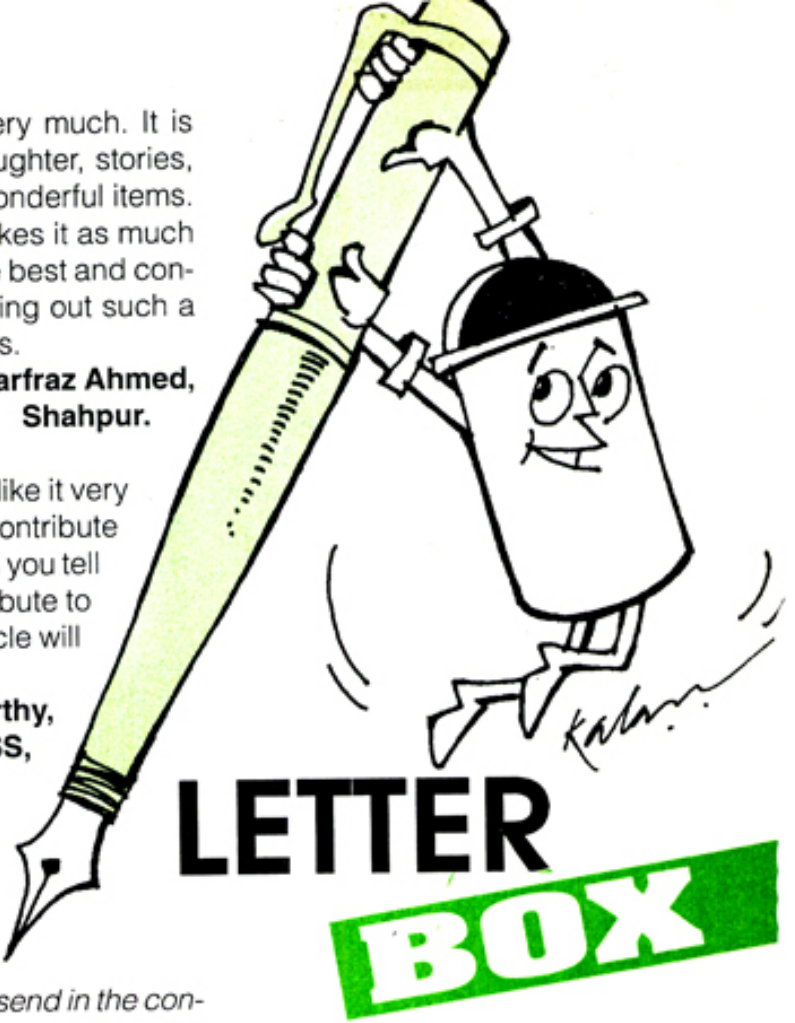
Cover illustration : **Chellappan**

LETTER BOX



✉ I like Gokulam very much. It is filled with fun and laughter, stories, puzzles and many wonderful items. I am sure everyone likes it as much as I do. I wish you the best and congratulations on bringing out such a good magazine for us.

Sarfraz Ahmed,
Shahpur.

✉ I read Gokulam. I like it very much. I too want to contribute to the magazine. Can you tell me how I must contribute to it? If I send in my article will it be published?

R. Narayana Murthy,
VIII A, MVSR MHSS,
Chennai.

Dear Narayana Murthy,

You may send in your contributions. Please remember to send in the contribution along with your name, age, address, name of your school and class.

Quite a number of children send in articles. If yours is selected it will be published in due course. If you want your article returned to you in the event of non-publication, be sure to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

- Ed.

✉I am a reader of Gokulam. I have been reading it for about three months now. I am very impressed. The stories, puzzles and jokes are amazing.

Supriya Shankar Basu,
Southend School,
Calcutta

Rita: I consider writing articles a thankless job.

Hema: I don't think so. All my articles are returned by the editor with thanks!

- Lakshmi,
St. Xavier's School,
Aurangabad

A HOLIDAY

"Your attention please. This is heaven. You are about to witness a meeting between two gods." The voice from behind the curtain made the audience sit up.

The curtain swayed in the afternoon breeze. Lord Ganesha was seated on a stool.

Soon, the curtain was pushed aside and a child dressed in yellow dhoti and a kurta, walked on to the make-shift stage. This child was younger than the boy who had dressed up as Lord Ganesha. The child in yellow dhoti wore her hair in a knot on top of her head.

A peacock feather was tucked into the knot. She had tucked in a bamboo flute in her waist band.

"Hello, hello, if it is not Ganesh," greeted Krishna as he came on stage.

Ganesh turned around. "Ah, hello, my dear friend, how are you?"

Krishna nodded his head carefully lest the feather fell off. "I'm fine. Thank you, but what are you doing here?"

"My friend, I was feeling bored and thought I'd go around a bit. What brings you here?"

"You see, a few of my devotees were looking for help. I thought I would see for myself how things were here."

"Our purpose is much the same. The heat is oppressive."

"Yes, but at Vrindhavan, the cows keep me cool."

"Ah! Forget the cows. I'm sure the trees and the creepers dance to the music of your flute. That breeze must be cooling you."

Krishna mistook it to mean that Ganesha was jealous of him. "You are jealous of me."

"Wouldn't you be when the breeze dances to your tune? All I can do to remain cool is to pour water on my head by the trunkful."

The audience was finding it increasingly difficult not to laugh.

Father covered his mouth with a kerchief.

Ganesha was now saying, "Do you know, I happened to see myself featured in a magazine?"

"Really? What's the name of the magazine?"

"It's called Gokulam. And I am pictured as reclining, propped up against a pillow. My vehicle, the moonjuru sits beside the pillow. You are depicted as sitting on my lap."

"What?" Krishna sounded indignant.

"Don't get angry with me Krishna. What's the harm in sitting on my lap, huh? I am after all much, much heavier than you are. Surely you are not afraid of falling off and getting hurt?"

This was too much for the child dressed up as Krishna. She never took kindly to anyone calling her a child. I imagine sitting on someone's lap! That was humiliating. Had it not been for the mask and his costume, the boy who was pretending to be Lord Ganesha would have received a hard punch on his nose.

"Oh, now stop showing off. I don't sit even on my mother's lap. I am a big girl."

Mother had to hide her smile. She realised that the play acting had come to an end and the children were now fighting. She waited wondering what would happen next.

"Don't forget that you have enjoyed rides on me," Ganesha was not letting go.

Krishna said sulkily, "Alright, I agree you are capable of seating me on your lap."

"Hey, wait a minute. In fact, I think

Gokulam readers like you very much.

"You look very cute. I feel dowdy and fat next to you. Now, that should please you."

'Krishna' looked away. She was enormously pleased that Ganesha felt dowdy.

But, imagine, sitting on someone's lap. At this age!

Ganesha turned around. His trunk grazed Krishna's cheek.

"Dear brother, aren't you going to forgive the earthlings for portraying you that way?" Krishna didn't say anything.

Ganesha was very amused. "I like the way they have depicted me."

In response Krishna merely picked up his flute and began playing a tune. He was very pleased that the magazine itself was named after his own village.

PLAY

Ganesha said, "And the magazine is celebrating its birthday this month."

"Is it? What day was it born?"

"Oh, July 1st."

"Have you read the magazine?"

"Now that's a sensible question. Yes, I have read the magazine. There are stories, puzzles, riddles, news items..."

"That's great. May be we too could subscribe to it?" Krishna suggested.

"Good idea. Imagine the postman's confusion when he reads the address slip. "To Lord Ganesha and Lord Krishna, C/o. Heaven".

Suddenly Krishna rushed to Ganesha and said, "Come on, let's play hide and seek."

"Hey, we are in the middle of a show." Lord Ganesha reminded Krishna.

But the damage was done. Mother burst out laughing.

The play had ended. Father smiled. "Thank god, the heat didn't dampen their enthusiasm."

Mother said, "But they came back to earth with a bang."

COPY CAT

Karthikeya of village Dharmapura was a poor man. His only possessions were a buffalo and a hut. The chief of the village had large fields and many palaces. The village chief was, however, greedy. Once Karthikeya's buffalo entered the village chief's fields and ate up much of the crops. This angered the village chief very much. He set fire to Karthikeya's hut and killed his buffalo.

Poor Karthikeya decided to leave the village. He gathered some ash, all that remained of his possessions and put them in a bag. On his way to the city, he met a traveller named Ramakrishna. Ramakrishna was curious about what Karthikeya's bag contained. Karthikeya asked, "What are you carrying, my good friend?"

"I'm carrying gold. I shall make a fortune from it. What are you carrying in your bag?"

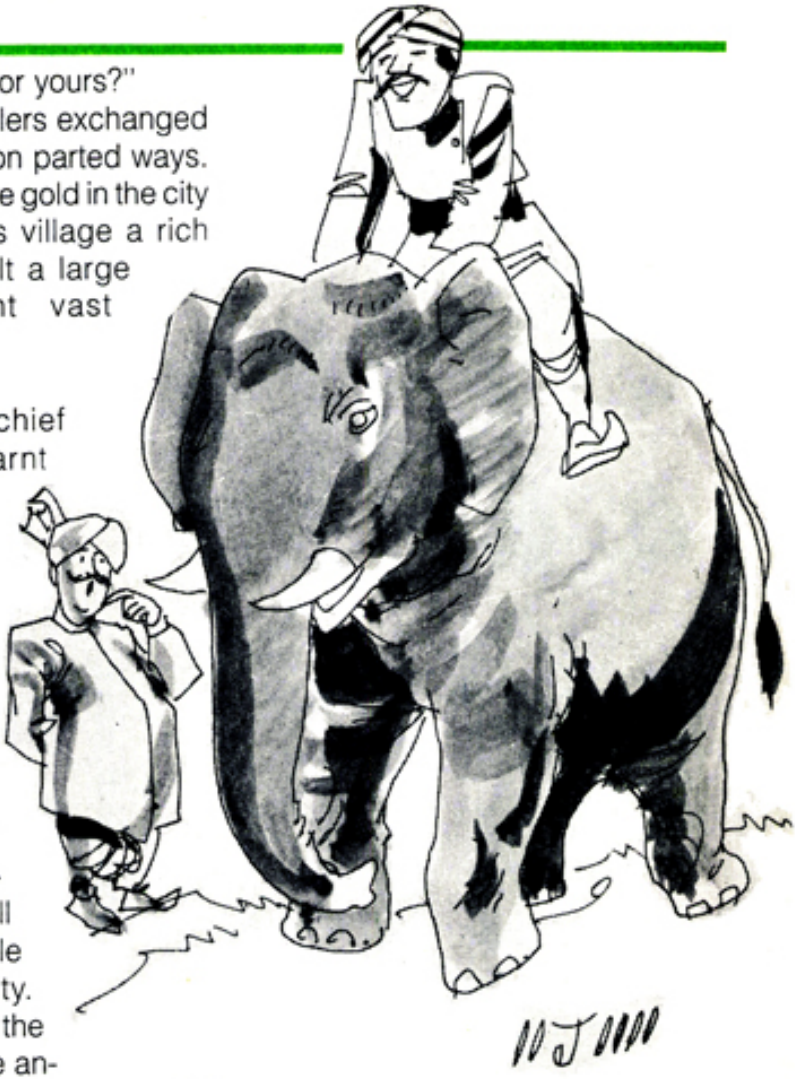
Karthikeya said in jest, "Oh, I am carrying diamonds."

Ramakrishna thought, 'If I exchanged gold for diamonds won't I get more rich?'

So, he asked Karthikeya, "Will you

exchange this bag for yours?"

So, the two travellers exchanged their bags. They soon parted ways. Karthikeya sold all the gold in the city and returned to his village a rich man. Soon, he built a large house and bought vast tracts of land.



The village chief who learnt about Karthikeya's return, asked him how he had become rich so quickly.

Karthikeya replied, "By selling ash."

The village chief set fire to all his belongings. He put all the ash into a bundle and left for the city. When he tried to sell the ash people became angry and beat him up. The angry chief returned to his village and asked his men to throw Karthikeya into the river.

Karthikeya was thrown into the river. But, he found a log of wood and held on to it. He reached the shore without much trouble. A man waiting ashore with an elephant asked Karthikeya to look after his elephant so that he could have a dip in the river.

Karthikeya sat on the elephant, promising to look after it till the man returned.

The village chief who passed that way noticed Karthikeya. He asked Karthikeya how he had managed to survive after being thrown into the river. Karthikeya told him that the elephant had saved him. The chief asked his guards to throw him into the river. The unfortunate village chief was drowned because he did not know to swim.

B.V.S. Manideep, VIII A,
Space Central School,
Sullurpeta.

NEWSBITS

Planet like earth?

A team of astronomers has come up with facts that prove that there is another solar system in the universe. This solar system resem- bles ours. Around a sun-sized star revolves three planets.

This star is 44 light-years away. It is moving away from earth at a speed of 1.8 km/sec. Earthlings may have company after all!

Life on Mars, at last!

A microbe that thrives on methane and does not need oxygen can survive on Mars. Under Mars-like conditions in laboratory this microbe was found to thrive. Experiments conducted in the culture dishes also reveal that these microbes can even change the climate of Mars.

These microbes use carbon-di-oxide and hydro-gen. They are a type of bacteria that live in places where there's no oxygen.

Unanswered letter

A 450-year old letter remains unanswered still. The letter was written by Nicolas Copernicus in 16th century seeking papal approval of his discovery. Copernicus had discovered that the earth circled the sun. Copernicus had sent the letter to Pope Paul III in 1543. The letter still remains unanswered.

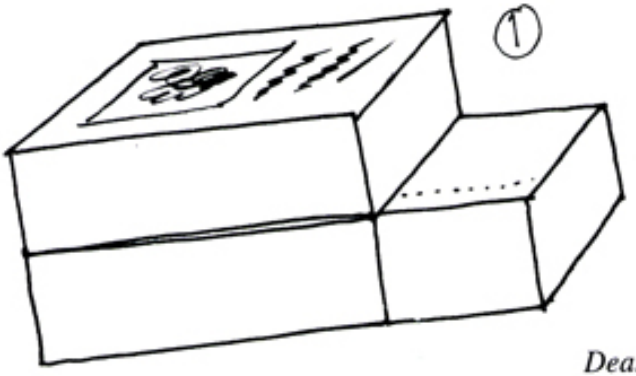
Rescued from drain

In Wisconsin, US, a dog that liked to sniff around in drainage pipes fell into a storm sewer and wandered for four days. It was rescued by children who heard it barking. "He was really dirty but in very good shape. He didn't smell bad. Who knows what he munched on?" the new owners said.

MATCH BOX VAN

You need :

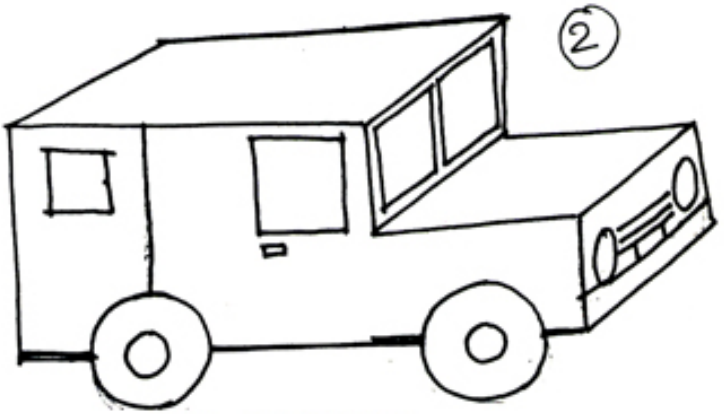
Some matchboxes, gum, scissors, a core of toilet paper roll (optional), stiff cardboard, paper and paint.



Method :

Slide the tray of one matchbox half out to form the front. Then stick another matchbox on top (1).Cover it with paper and paint the doors, windows and the headlights and tail lights.

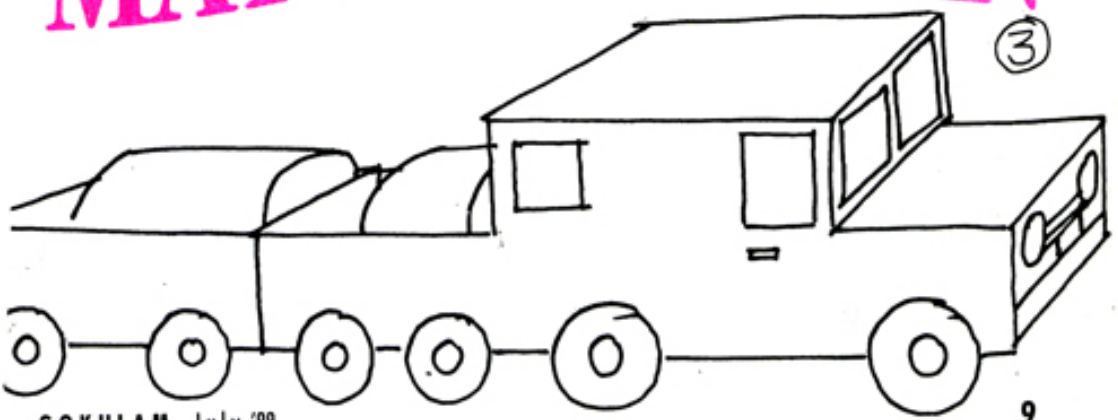
Cut wheels out of stiff cardboard and paste them in position (2). From that basic design you can create almost any sort of vehicle.



Toilet paper cores can be used to make tankers. An ordinary matchbox tray with two wheels stuck on each side makes a good trailer. Attach it to your car or van (3).

Shurthi Prasad, Nightingale HS, Bangalore.

Dear Shruthi, pl. send in your age details.



GOKULAM ART GALLERY

Preethi,
Std VIII,
KV, Kannur

M. Ganesh,
age 14,
Sitadevi Garodia
Vidhyalaya,
Chennai

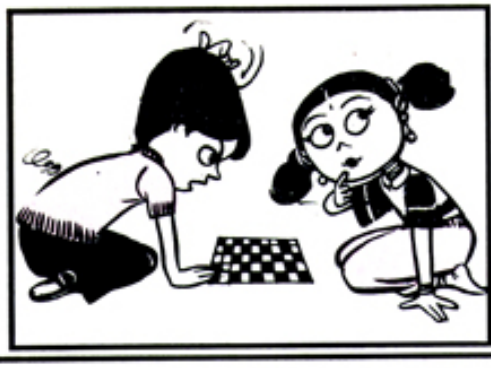
Durga,
Std IX-B,
St Antony's School,
Bangalore
Please send your house address.

D. Prasanna,
Coimbatore
Dear Prasanna, pl. send in your age and house address.

Sumanta Ranjan Pal,
Std X,
Kancharapara Harnett HS, Nadia

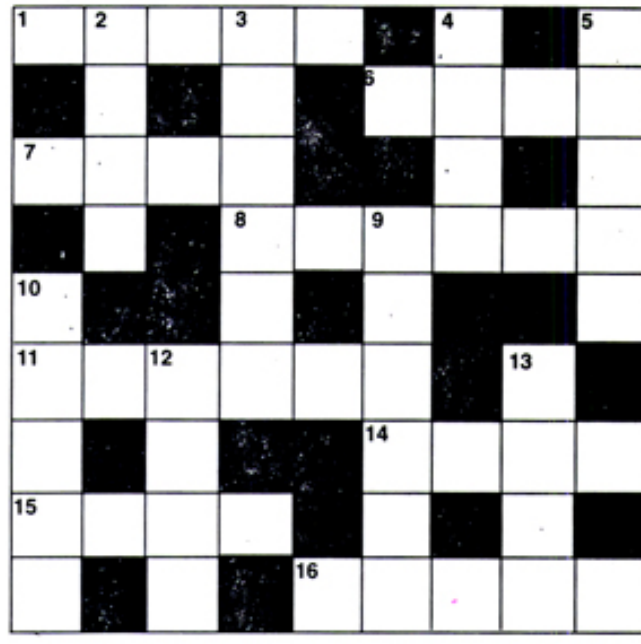
Shivani Sahoo,
Std IX,
Puri Zilla school, Puri

M.S. Suganthi,
Std VIII,
Annai Veilankkani MHSS,
Chennai



PUZZLES

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

1 The planet we live on (5)
6 Part of the leg (4)
7 Lean (4)
8 Only one (6)
11 Name of a bird (6)
14 A wild goat (4)
15 The direction in which sun rises (4)
16 Happy (5)

Down

2 Continuous pain (4)
3 When someone becomes more tense (6)
4 Opposite of short (4)
5 Young ox (5)
9 It's not ice (6)
10 Fast (5)
12 Get up (4)
13 Name of an animal (4)

J. Jayashree, VII, H.S.S. School, Chennai.

AN 'IRON' QUIZ

The answers begin with the prefix 'IRON'. Clues will help you decipher the answer to the following sentence too.

Communication is impossible without these.

1. Nickname of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. (4) (O) — — —
2. A young unmarried woman. (6) — (O) — — — —
3. Bismarck (10) — — — (O) — — — — — —
4. Era of iron implements and weapons. (3) — (O) —

5. Imaginary dividing line between East and West blocs in Europe. (7) — — — — — — —

6. Outer covering or skin on tree trunks. (4) — — — —

7. Used for artificial respiration. (4) — — — —

8. Taking this in arguments. (4) — — — — —

9. German military decoration. (5) — — — — —

Pooja P. Pai, age 14, Std IX, Little Lilly's Eng. School, Bangalore.

FIND THEM BEFORE THEY ARE POLLUTED

Find the names of 14 well known rivers.

M	I	S	S	I	S	S	I	P	P	I	J
I	U	Z	A	I	R	E	E	I	O	H	X
S	D	R	B	L	B	I	N	G	E	D	G
S	U	P	R	U	Z	D	G	L	N	O	D
O	S	A	N	A	U	D	U	U	N	A	T
U	C	A	D	S	Y	M	B	I	W	S	G
R	D	T	S	D	A	R	L	I	N	G	C
I	R	E	V	A	K	E	R	H	I	N	E
A	R	T	U	P	A	M	H	A	R	B	V
V	I	S	T	U	L	A	A	P	R	O	T

* Ganges at Varanasi

S. Abhilash, Union Christian School, Chennai.

Dear Abilash, pl.send in your class details.

HISTORY - MYSTERY

Find the years with the help of the clues given.

Clues :

1. The year in which India became independent.
2. The year in which India became a Republic.
3. The year in which the First World War started.
4. The year in which the First World War ended.
5. The year in which the Second World War started.
6. The year in which the Second World War ended.
7. The year in which the 25th year of India's Independence was celebrated.
8. The year in which Kenya became independent.
9. The year in which Egypt became independent.
10. The year in which Zambia became independent.
11. The year in which Zaire became independent.

R. Praveen Kumar, age 14, DTEA SSS, N. Delhi.

A JAYABALAN STORY

SECRET POLICE

King Jayabalan was getting ready to sign a proclama- tion. All the ministers were gathered around him as he sat at his desk, dipping a pen in an ink bottle and trying it out on a rough paper.

The proclamation had been prepared by home minister Sigainasam. There had been a couple of bomb blasts in Jayabalpore, and it was suspected that these bombs had been manufactured in some fireworks factories.

So a new law had to be passed according to which a licence was required to make and sell all kinds of crackers.

So the king had to sign a proclamation. He gnashed his teeth and bit his lips, pushed out his tongue and puffed up his cheeks as he wrote his name on the document. He was not much used to writing.

The ministers applauded. Solmannan, the publicity minister, laughed loudly and said : "No more bombs! No more bombs!"

The king looked at him morosely. "If you open your big mouth again, I'll have a bomb put in it" he said. Solmannan's mouth clicked shut.

"How are we going to check if all fireworks shops have licences?" asked Ayalaan, the minister for foreign affairs.

"We have a new branch of secret police just for this purpose" said Sigainasam.

"Why not the regular police?" asked Tholaipesi, the minister for communication.

"As soon as they see the police coming they'll hide their stock. So we have the secret police" said Sigainasam.

"We have designed a uniform for the secret police" said Solmannan with an oily smile at the king.

"Very expensive uniforms too" said Varisumai, the finance minister.

"But the secret police should be plain - clothesmen isn't it?" said Arivili, the education minister.

"This uniform is entirely different from the regular police dress" said

Sigainasam. "I'll show it to you."

He beckoned to an attendant and said, "Ask the chief of the secret police to come here." The attendant hurried out.

"Alattal Kumar, the chief of the secret police will appear now wearing the uniform" Sigainasam said.

In a few minutes Alattal Kumar strode into the hall. The ministers gasped. But Alattal didn't seem to mind that. He bowed to the king and then began striking poses and whirling his cane. His eyes shifted this way and that in what he thought was the correct manner for a secret service chief.

The uniform was bright and gaudy. One leg of the trousers was dark green and the other crimson. The tunic was yellow with mauve buttons. It was embellished with blue ribbons at the sleeves and the shoulders. The cap was a vivid orange with scarlet buttons.

Ayalaan coughed gently. "Your

In 1995, a group of Iowa community volunteers put together the world's largest popcorn ball, weighing 2,225 pounds (lbs.) and standing about 6 ft. tall. More than 880 lbs. of popcorn, 1,000 lbs. of sugar and 500 lbs. of syrup were used.

S.KA

Majesty", he said. "This would be more suitable for a ceremonial parade. But..."

"Even more suitable for a clown in the circus" Varisumai whispered in Ayalaan's ear.

"A secret police official wearing this uniform will be immediately recognised" Ayalaan said.

"Well, he can put on a false beard or eyebrows to disguise himself" said Sigainasam.

"I like this uniform" said the king. "It has nice colours."

Alattal bowed very low, and tucked the cane under his right arm.

"Well anyway, our secret service will be the most colourful in the world" said Varisumai.

"Let's hope they'll also be efficient" Ayalaan said.

Alattal continued to pose away in what he thought was an attractive manner. "I think that will be enough of display" said Ayalaan drily.

"Let us not detain the chief of the secret police any longer" said Varisumai. "He may have some work to do."

"All right, Alattal, that will be all" said Sigainasam.

Alattal saluted the king and strode out.

In a few days the new law regarding licences came into effect, and a lot of secret police personnel were seen around the kingdom in their garish uniforms.

The people pointed them out to each other and said, "Look, he's from the secret police". And children shouted "Secret Police! Secret Police!" every time an officer went by. Soon the secret police was the most well known department in the government.

The moment the secret police appeared, all stocks of fireworks were hidden away by the traders. So for many months no real work could be done by the secret police.

Alattal Kumar decided to change all that. He swung into action on his own. He went into a shop and said he wanted to buy some crackers. At first the shopkeeper said that he had no crackers.

"I know you are saying that because I am from the secret police" Alattal said. "But I really want to buy some crackers for my children."

After some persuasion the shopkeeper removed a packet of crackers and handed it to Alattal. "Do you

have a licence to sell these?" Alattal asked him.

"No sir" said the man shaking his head worriedly.

"Then you are under arrest" Alattal thundered. He handcuffed the man and dragged him to the headquarters of the secret police.

Alattal made a few more arrests this way. He was very happy. He patted himself on the back. He even wanted to talk to Sigainasam and claim a reward.

One morning Alattal sauntered into a fireworks shop. He tapped his cane against his palm. The shopkeeper rose and stood deferentially before him.

Alattal darted his eyes hither and thither in the approved secret police fashion. "I want some crackers" he said. "Do you sell crackers?"

"Yes sir" said the man without hesitation. That surprised Alattal.

The man pulled down a box and opened it. "These crackers are the best we have" he said. "They make quite a big bang."

"How much are they?" Alattal asked.

"One Jaybee per cracker, or ten Jaybees per dozen". Jaybee was the currency of Jayabalpore, and was equivalent to about one rupee.

"All right, I'll take a dozen" said Alattal, and the man wrapped up the

crackers and gave them to him. Alattal paid the man ten jaybees.

Alattal suddenly put on a tough official manner. "Do you have a licence to sell these?" he asked menacingly.

"Yes, I do" said the man calmly, and then he produced a licence from a drawer and showed it to Alattal who was taken aback, and didn't know what to do.

"I don't need these crackers" he said stiffly.

"Sorry, we don't take back things that have been sold" said the shopkeeper.

Alattal moved out of the shop gloomily. The man followed him upto the entrance. "I can take them back for six jaybees" he said.

Alattal considered the matter. This way he would lose only four jaybees instead of ten. "All right" he said.

The shopkeeper suddenly raised his voice. "You are willing to sell them to me for six jaybees?" he shouted.

A crowd gathered in front of the shop on hearing the noise. The shopkeeper addressed the crowd: "This man is trying to sell these crackers to me. But he has no licence to sell crackers."

Alattal tried to run. But the crowd captured him and handed him over to the police.

Alattal no longer wears his splendid uniform. The secret police are thinking of other ways to check licences.

JANAKAN

Houdini, the master 'MAGICIAN'

Houdini was known as the master of escape. Houdini was born Ehrich Weiss in 1873 in Wisconsin USA. He ran away from home at the age of 12 and found work in a mechanic's shop. He became fascinated by locks and soon learned to open them with a small piece of wire. This gave him inspiration for his career.

At 15, he performed conjuring tricks in bars under the name of Ehrich the great.

He emerged from double bottomed cases and untied himself from tightly bound ropes. His speed in freeing himself amazed spectators. Soon, Houdini gained popularity and at 17, Ehrich Weiss be-

* Scarce water supply brings down agricultural yield.

HOW TO CONSERVE WATER?

India is a land of agriculture. Indian farmers depend on monsoon for a rich yield of crops. Now, our farmers have been advised to go in for drip irrigation.

What is drip irrigation?

This method of watering crops in fields was first experimented by Israel. This system helps to conserve water. Water is sent directly to the root of the plants thus avoiding wastage of precious natural resources.

Water is lifted from ground and stored in large tubs. From these tubs it is taken into the fields by tubes. The plastic or rubber tubes take water to the baulks around trees and plants through smaller tubes. Small holes are punched into the tubes and tiny tubes are inserted. Water now drips directly to the roots.

As the plants grow tubes feeding water to them are also made bigger. This helps to increase the amount of water flow into the tubes. Wastage of water is reduced to about 50%. These tubes can also be used to administer fertilisers and pesticides. This method controls weed growth as water is supplied only to the plants. The method helps to conserve water at source.

B. Dhanya, Std VIII,
Anita Kumaran MS, Thandupattu

---

came Houdini.

His fame spread even to England. A London newspaper placed before him a seemingly impossible offer. He had to free himself from shackles that an expert had taken five years to make before a crowd of 4000.

Houdini emerged from the shackles in a matter of minutes. It took him a mere two minutes to emerge from a locked jail. He opened safes very swiftly. He invented an instrument that could open the most intricate locks and devices. He would throw himself into tanks of water or milk, tightly bound and shackled. He would emerge unharmed.

Though Houdini was well known for these feats, he went to much lengths to keep himself in the news.

He often performed dangerous experiments. He would have a group gather around him. He did not charge any fee for this. Once Houdini was shackled and thrown through a hole in the ice into the frozen Detriot river.

Houdini emerged from the river in eight minutes, minus the shackles. Houdini could even pass through a brick wall! Many people tried to explain his skill, but his suppleness, vitality and will power were almost superhuman.

Even Houdini was human. He fell ill and in October 1926, he died.

J. Gayathri, age 17,
Sri Shankara Vidhyalaya,
Chennai

THE UNUSED PLACE

Like Birbal, Abdul Karim was a courtier in Akbar's court. Abdul Karim and Birbal were not the best of friends. Abdul Karim could not see with his left eye.

Birbal had the bad habit of spitting everywhere when he chewed tobacco. Despite polite and open rebukes Birbal could just not get over his bad habit. Once Abdul Karim found a chance to spite Birbal when Birbal spat on the ground after chewing tobacco.

Abdul Karim went to King Akbar and said, "Your Majesty, Birbal has the habit of spitting tobacco anywhere he pleases."

Akbar called Birbal and told him, "Birbal, henceforth you must spit either in the spitoon or in an unused place."

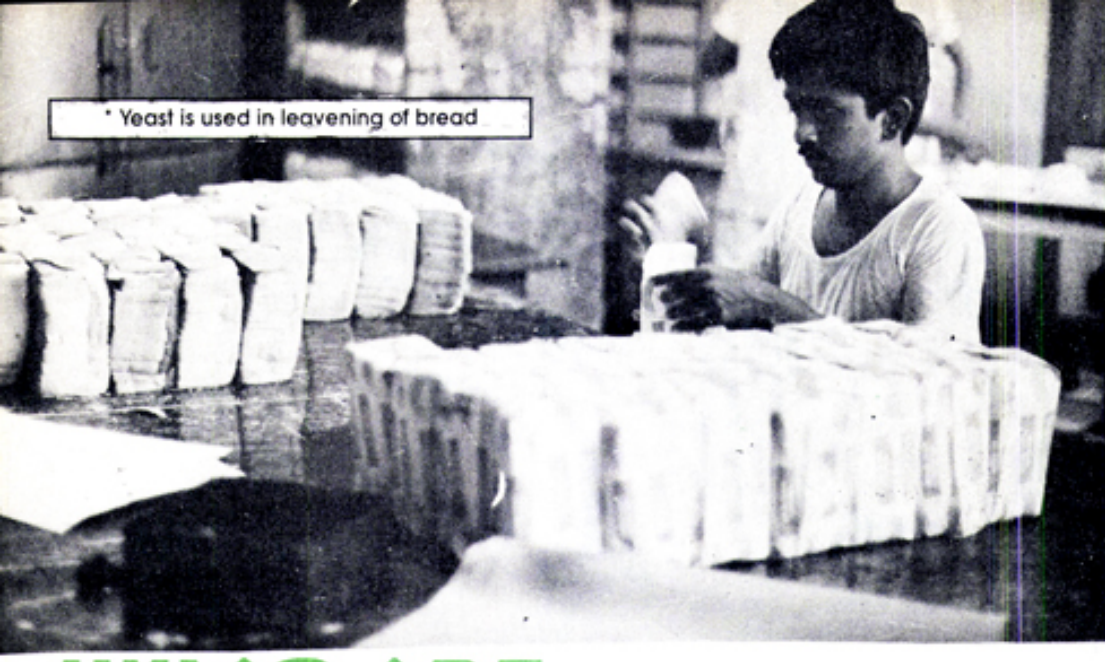
The next day Birbal found Abdul Karim walking down the road. Birbal was chewing tobacco as usual. When Abdul Karim walked up to him, Birbal spat out the tobacco on Abdul Karim's left eye.

An angry Abdul Karim approached Akbar and said, "Your Majesty, Birbal spat tobacco juice on my face."

When Akbar asked for an explanation, Birbal said, "Your Majesty, his left eye is in disuse so I spat on it."

All the courtiers laughed. King Akbar said nothing for a while but later he reproached Birbal for behaving spitefully.

Sudipta Nandi, age 10,
St. Agnes Girl's School,
Kharagpur



* Yeast is used in leavening of bread

WHAT ARE MICRO-ORGANISMS?

Only since 19th century has man begun to learn about the micro-organisms that have always been a part of his life. Yeast is traditionally used in the manufacture of wine and beer and in the leavening of bread. At home when milk is mixed with curd, yeast curdles milk.

Continued research and increased understanding of microbial activities led to more benefits to mankind. Microbes under natural conditions produce various types of chemical substances which are used for human welfare.

They are produced in a large scale in industries which use them to bring about some change in raw material, byproduct or in a process.

Micro-organisms are employed in the production of antibiotics, vitamins, insulin, interferon, vaccines etc. It helps in prevention and treatment of human diseases and disorders. Wonder drugs and antibiotics depend largely on these micro-organisms. The discovery of the first antibiotic, penicillin by Alexander Fleming in 1929, revolutionised modern medicine.

Antibiotics are chemical substances produced by micro-organisms. They have the capacity to inhibit the growth of other micro-organisms in dilute solutions at lower concentrations without injuring the healthy tissues. Antibiotics like

penicillin, streptomycin, tetracycline, erythromycine and neomycin are widely used in the control of diseases.

Today almost all infections can be nipped in the bud by wonder drugs. Insulin, a microbial product, is the first therapeutic product produced by means of genetic engineering and is widely used for diabetics. Another product, interferon is used to cure viral diseases like common cold and hepatitis. Interferon is also produced by genetically engineered bacteria. Many other medicines are produced in the same way.

Organic acids are produced by microbes. Citric acid, acetic acid, fumaric acid, gluconic acid and lactic acid are some examples. They are used in resins, fruit syrups, pickles, confectionery, cosmetics, etc. Micro-organisms are used in the large scale production of vitamins like vitamin C.

Some micro-organisms like yeast, moulds and bacteria ferment carbohydrates into alcohols. To the molasses is added selected strains of yeast. For wine production juice from fresh grapes is inoculated with a variety of yeast. Other alcoholic products like whisky are also prepared using yeast.

Microbial enzymes produced by fungi are used in the preparation of starch, in fruit processing, leavening of bread and in making detergents.

The dried cells of micro-organism are used as proteins. Algae, spirulina and chlorella are all rich sources of proteins. Such sources are used to supplement food in diets of under-nourished children in developing countries.

Dr. N. Ramanathan and M. Sugalya, Annamalai Nagar.

THREE FRIENDS

In a village named Trilok Puri there lived three friends whose names were I, You and Mad. Of these, I and You were stout and well-built. Mad was thin and frail.

One evening, on their way to a fair, I and You got into a heated argument. They started hitting each other. Soon, the argument had turned very violent. Mad tried to intervene and stop the fight. But the fight only got worse.

Finally, Mad called the police. A policeman picked up the receiver and said, "Hello".

Mad said, "Hello, I and You are fighting at Laxman chowk."

"Ha! Ha! How's that possible? I and you are only talking to each other."

Mad insisted, "I and You are really fighting with each other."

The policeman now said, "Are you Mad?"

The boy on the other end replied, "Yes, I am Mad."

Veena Raj, age 16,
KV, Mumbai

Doctor: Are you taking good care of that cold?

Patient : I certainly am. I've had it for a full month. It's just as good as new.

T. Shankar, age 15,
Belvoir College International,
Colombo

THE KING'S DOUBT

During a hunting trip the king of Katyapuri became very thirsty. The king and his retinue came upon a coconut grove.

The men pulled down many coconuts. When the king's thirst was quenched he rewarded the grove's owner handsomely.

The king, however, had a doubt. He wanted to know how water entered the coconuts. Several people gave him an answer. But the king wasn't satisfied.

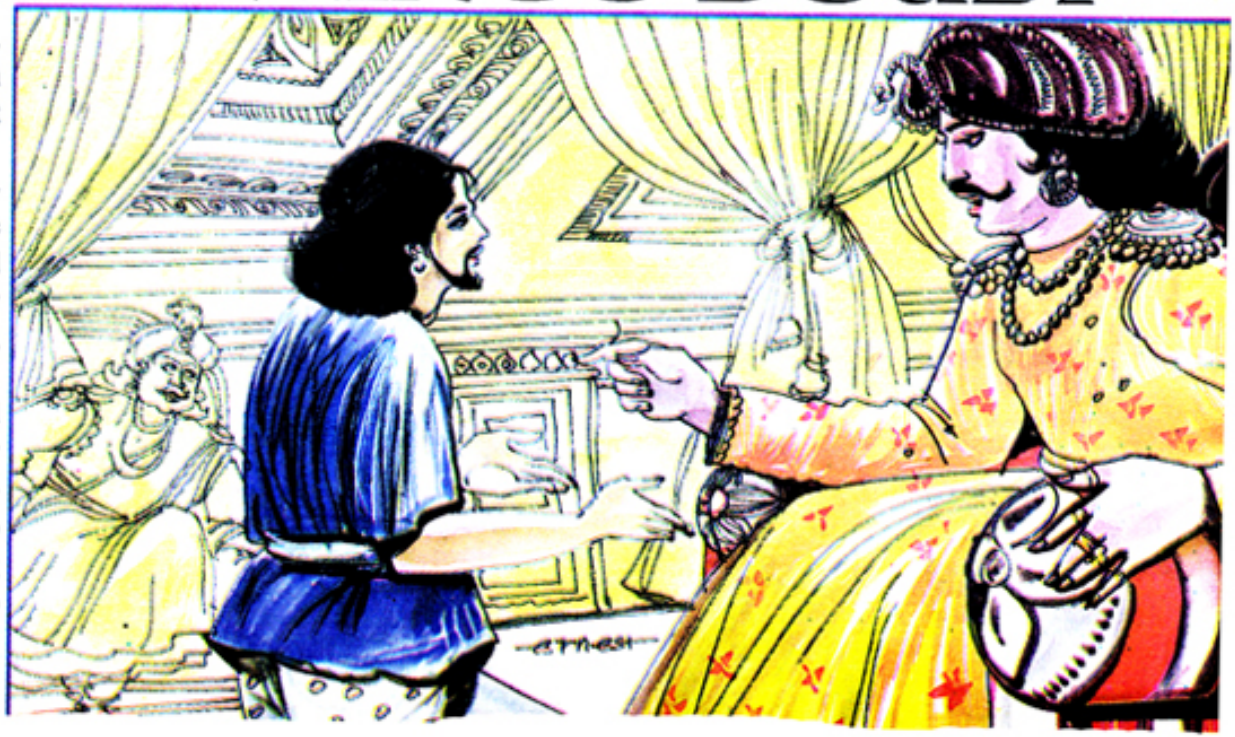
The king made an announcement that whoever could give him a satisfactory answer would be rewarded handsomely. Many tried and failed miserably. A villager decided to try his luck.

He approached the king and said, "Your majesty once very long ago a drought was predicted. No one knew how to combat the drought. A young boy suggested that they fill up each coconut with water.

"Accordingly, people filled up coconuts with water. The predicted drought never hit the land. People forgot about the water they had stored in the coconuts. To this day we see the three holes made by our ancestors on the coconuts. They injected water into the coconuts through these holes."

The king was pleased with the villager's explanation and rewarded him handsomely.

S.Anand, III-A,
TUSLMHSS, Madurai.



One day my mother adjusted the scales of the srudhi box. I was practising music. I pointed out to her that the scales were set much higher than they were in my music class. My mother said that she had placed the scales at the same level as did my teacher. I couldn't adjust to the pitch of the scales and performed badly. I dissolved into tears. My mother

became angry. She scolded me for performing badly. I have tried my best to please her. We haven't spoken to each other for over a month. How can I please my mother?

Shwetha Ramkumar, age 13,
Mother's Intl. School, N. Delhi.

Dear Shwetha,

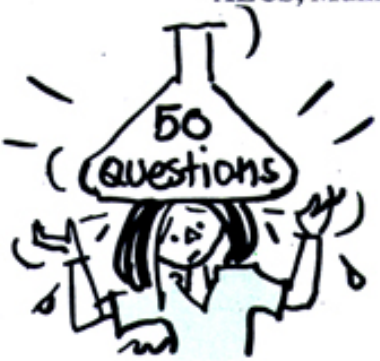
I hope things have cleared up between the two of you.

Since you are learning music from a teacher, ask her to help you out in setting the scales on the shrudhi box. Did you find out at least after all this if the scales were set to the right pitch, the day things went wrong?

Mothers are easy to please. A kind deed, a cuddly hug and a kiss is all that needs to make them your friend. Try it. You could get her a card that says how sorry you are about that incident. You could make a card yourself. You could get her a rose.

I am in VII standard. My science teacher does not explain the concepts in the class. She gives us 50 questions in a lesson. How can I learn my science lesson without wasting much time on it?

R. Liny, Std. VII,
AECS, Mumbai.



Dear Liny,

Find out if the others in your class

GRANDMA WORM

feel the same way. Tell your teacher that you find it difficult to understand the concepts. If the teacher is unable to help out ask your parents to teach you. Science is not easy to understand unless you are thorough with concepts.

I am 11 years old. I study in DAV Public School. My sister treats me cruelly. She beat me and scolds me too. Nobody likes me. I am not beautiful. My sister is very proud.

Naina Agarwal, Bubhaneshwar.

Dear Naina,

Why don't you take up the matter with your mother? Tell her that your sister beats you and scolds you. But do tell her what brought about the beatings and the scoldings too. Don't hide facts from her. Remember, a sister can be a good friend. Unless you are truthful with your mother she cannot help you to build a happy relationship with your sister.

I am 11 and am in VII standard. I am very fat. How can I lose weight?

Kavitha Prabhakaran,
Our Own English HS, Dubai.

Dear Kavitha,

Go easy on fried items like chips

and try to avoid potatoes. You can take up outdoor games like tennis, basketball, hockey, cricket and badminton. You can run or jog for 30 minutes a day. Begin by jogging for ten minutes.

You can then gradually increase it to 30 minutes. If you begin a routine stick to it. Otherwise it may become difficult to lose weight.

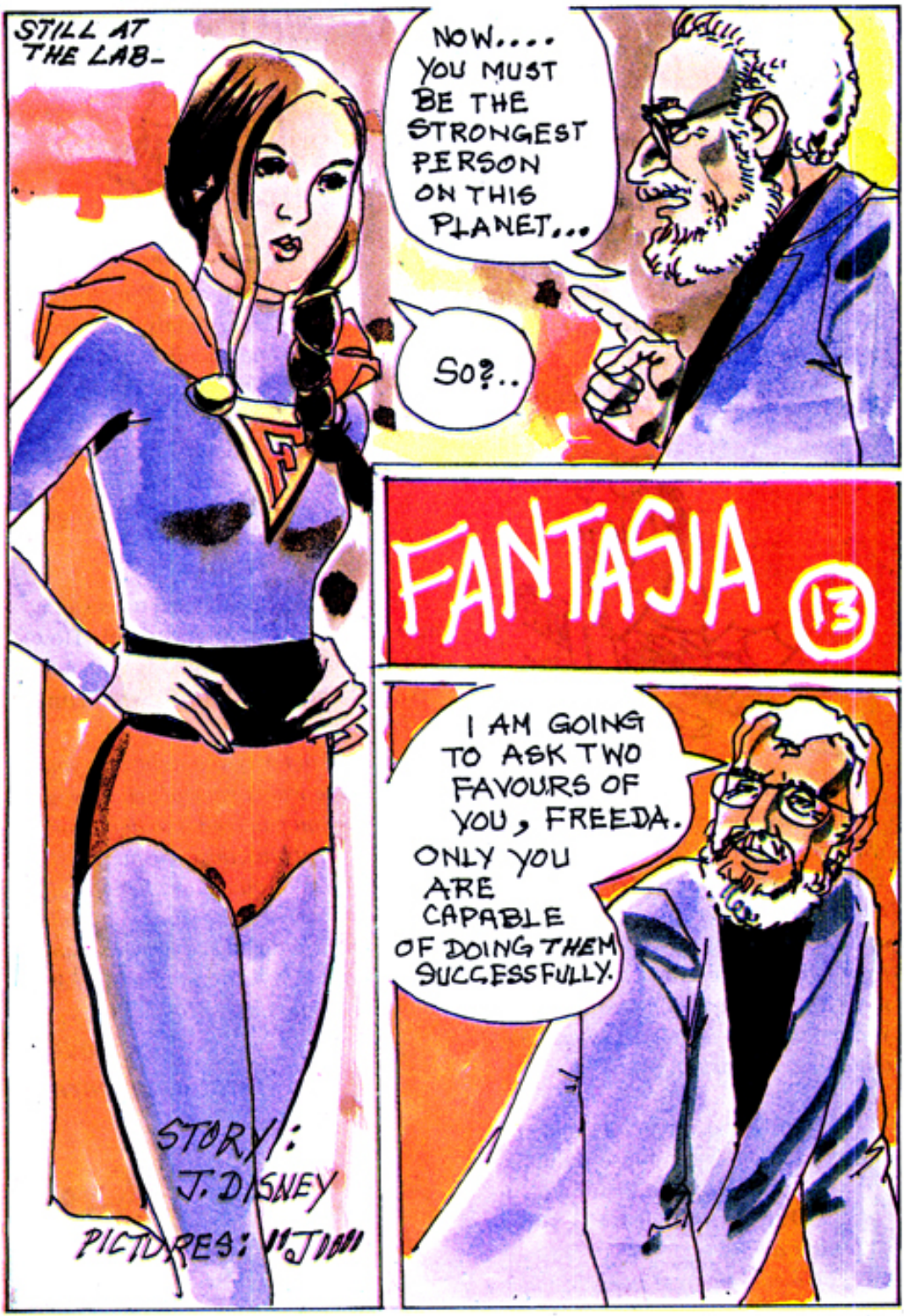
I am 13 years old and my sister is nine years old. We often quarrel. How do I stop myself from fighting with her?

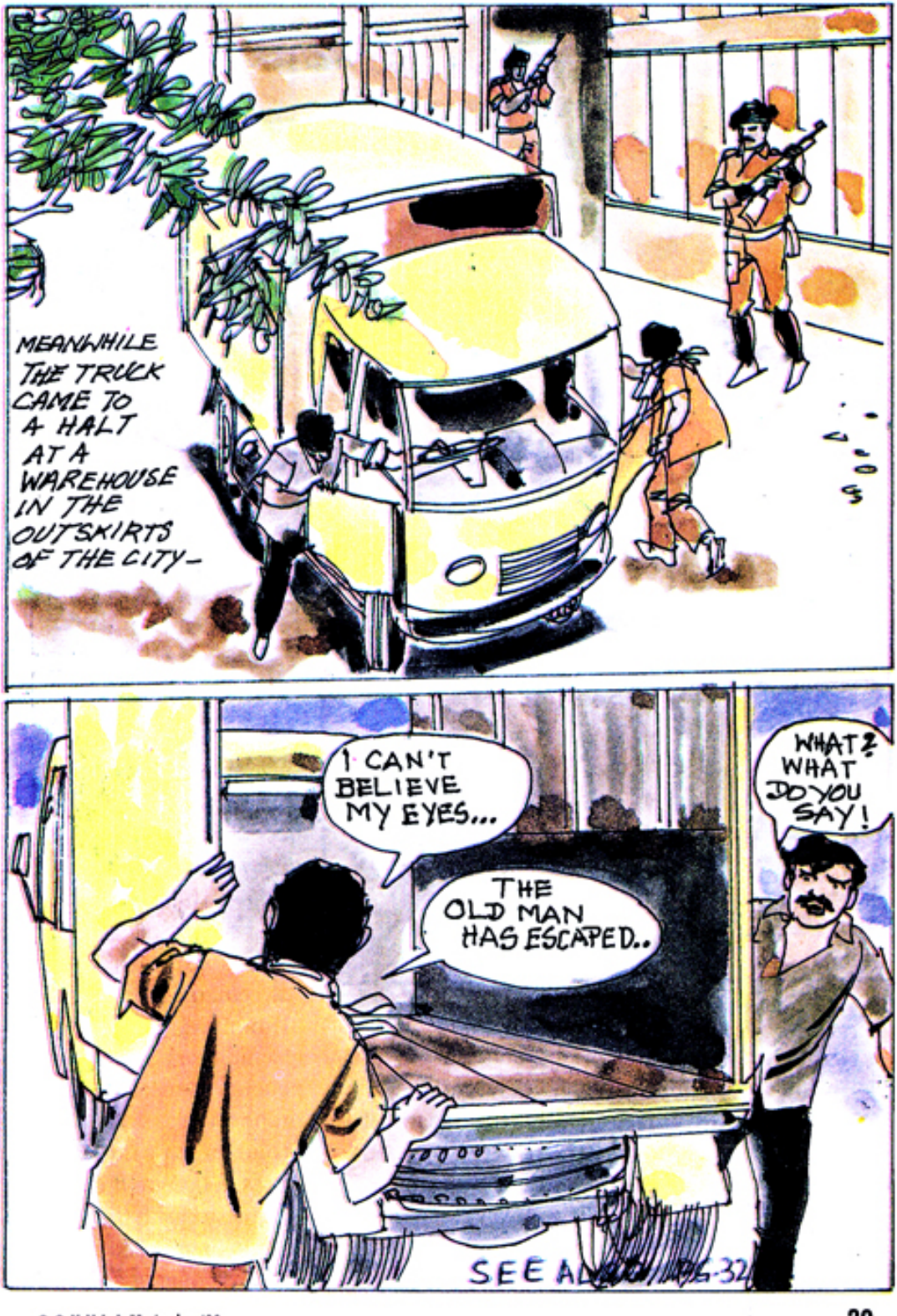
A.N. Nikhil, VIII Std., Trivandrum.

Dear Nikhil,

Find out why you fight with your sister. If she wants your pencil or your sketch pen you can lend it to her. Don't forget to take it back once she has finished using them. You could offer to help her with homework. Perhaps you could help her with her maths or her grammar. You will surely be her best brother then. There will be no time to fight.

Love,
Grandma worm


STILL AT THE LAB-
NOW.... YOU MUST BE THE STRONGEST PERSON ON THIS PLANET...
SO?..
FANTASIA 13
I AM GOING TO ASK TWO FAVOURS OF YOU, FREEDA. ONLY YOU ARE CAPABLE OF DOING THEM SUCCESSFULLY.
STORY: J. DISNEY
PICTURES: "JIMM"


MEANWHILE THE TRUCK CAME TO A HALT AT A WAREHOUSE IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY-
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES...
THE OLD MAN HAS ESCAPED..
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU SAY!
SEE ALSO PAGE-32

BODY TALK

DIGESTION and EXCRETION

Man is yet to invent a machine as wonderful as our digestive system. The food taken in by man serves as fuel and the heat produced during the process of digestion keeps the body working. It rebuilds dead cells. It helps tissues and organs to do their work.

* Water is very necessary for digestion of food.

When food is taken in by Bhavana, it is ground by her teeth. The saliva moistens it and turns it into a kind of paste. The saliva is brought into the mouth by three pairs of glands. Everyday, one to two pounds of saliva is secreted.

The food mixed with saliva moves down the alimentary canal. It is 30 ft. long in an adult. The food enters the pharynx or the throat. Here the muscles

* Food is digested in the stomach in about three hours' time.

seize upon the food and force it down into the oesophagus. This soft tube with its elastic walls is about 10 inches long.

The stomach is an enlargement of the alimentary canal and resembles a pear-shaped pouch. It measures 10 inches across and its broad end points upwards, a little to the left.

The stomach has four coats of lining. The innermost is a mucous lining,

covered with innumerable small glands secreting mucous, to moisten the surface. During digestion a juice known as gastric fluid is secreted.

Gastric fluid is made of pepsin, rennin and hydrochloric acid. The stomach secretes gastric juice only when the food is sent into the stomach. In an average healthy adult about two gallons of saliva are secreted. Most of this is reabsorbed into blood later in the small intestine. Rennin is a ferment that coagulates milk. Food is broken down into jelly-like fluids. When food is not melted down fast enough it results in pain and discomfort known as gastritis.

If we examine the food in stomach two hours after consumption, we will see that some starchy food would have already changed into sugar. Fats would have melted but not have changed. Half-digested food would be in the form of thick greyish-white fluid called chyme. It takes three hours to make chyme from food.

* Thirst is experienced more immediately after a meal.

The muscular walls of the stomach continuously churn food in a circular motion during chymification. They are constantly in contact with food so that gastric juices may work. The stomach also constantly changes size.

When empty, it will hold no more than 1.14 lts. and when full, it can hold upto 4.5 lts. From the small intestine the remains is sent to the large intestine.

The large intestine absorbs the remaining traces of nutrients and water. The dried up waste and indigestible food is collected and then excreted through the rectum. In the course of a day an adult human being gives out 20 ounces of water, one ounce of CO_2 and one ounce of other waste matter when sweat breaks out on his skin.

Nitrogenous waste, constantly produced in every tissue is passed into the blood stream. It is later removed by the kidney filters as urine.

The liver collects bile and stores glycogen. From this soluble sugar is given to the blood. It is here that the final break up of urea takes place. The liver is considered as a kind of clearing house.

* Good exercise leads to good food habits.

THE MAN HAS VANISHED AS IF BY MAGIC
HUSH... LET'S SCRAM FROM HERE
YOU ARE NOT GOING ANYWHERE TILL YOU SEE PIRANHA.
OH NO!... THAT DEVIL OF A WOMAN.

WHEN THEY EXPLAINED THEIR FAILURE
IF YOU TELL OUR MASTER THIS STORY, HE WILL TEAR YOU TWO TO PIECES...

..I AM GOING TO LET YOU OFF WITH A LESSER PUNISHMENT.
THE SILENCER HAD A GO, TWICE~
BUT.. ER.. WE...
DON'T YOU KNOW, WITH US, IT IS 'EITHER DO OR DIE'?
AHHHH
TO CONTINUE.

GRANDMA'S PET

Preeti had just returned from school. Tommy ran up to her, his tail wagging nineteen to a dozen. Preethi threw her bag on the floor and picked up the little bundle.

Tommy was a prized possession. She had tried to convince her mother in vain that she needed a pet. Her parents had never agreed to it.

Finally, Preeti had to give up. A friend of hers who owned a dog for a pet suggested the she give it another try. That summer hols Preeti had been especially helpful around the house. Her parents were delighted. Finally when the vacations were almost coming to an end her parents decided to give her a present. Preeti had asked for a dog.

That was how Tommy came home. He was tiny and cute when he first stepped into their house. Preeti could still hold him in her hands. But he was an armful.

"Wait, wait, Tommy, let me remove my shoes, put my bag in my room and wash up." Preeti said as she put down Tommy. The dog licked her feet. Preeti could not suppress a laugh. Tommy followed her into her room, wagging his tail all the time.

Finally Preeti sat at the dining table and her mother placed before her a beaker of milk.

"This cannot go on forever Preeti," her mother said.

"What can't, mother?"

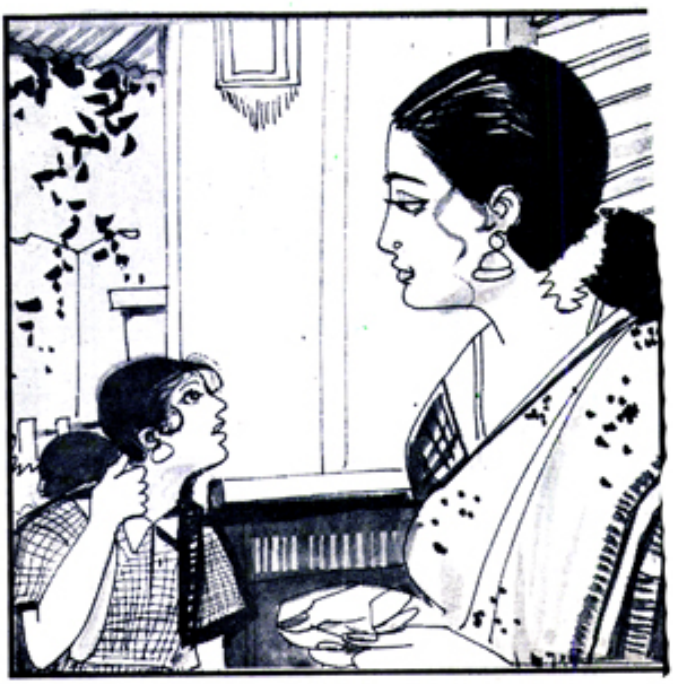
"Your grandmother is arriving tomorrow. She hates dogs."

"Oh, but I can't throw him out. I give him a bath everyday. He is not dirty. What's wrong with having him at home?"

"You can't explain all this to grandma, can you? She lives in the village. She has taken ill suddenly. Your father has gone to bring her here. She will not be returning to the village."

"I won't talk to her if she does not like Tommy."

"Preeti, don't forget that she is your grandmother. You must not talk of elders like that. She must never be made to feel unwelcome here."



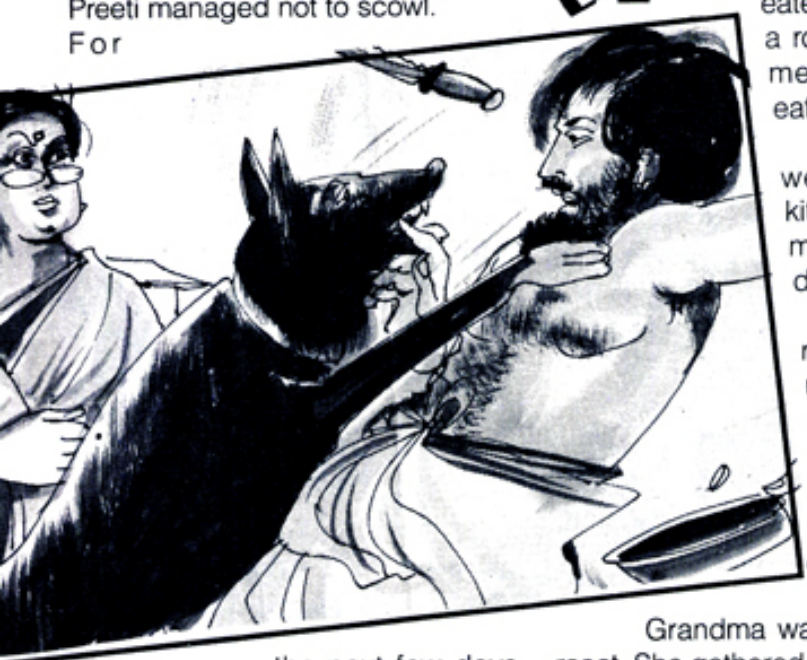
"Will we have to send Tommy away?"

"No, he will have to be kept chained in the backyard."

Preeti's grandmother arrived the next day. Tommy barked wildly with joy when he saw Preeti's father. He did not even seem to like the old woman who accompanied Preeti's father.

Preeti was very worried. Her grandmother made things worse by saying, "My god, where did you pick up that creature from? Take it away."

Preeti managed not to scowl. For the next few days grandma was constantly talking about how dogs spoil the house.



"Had I known that you had a dog I would never have agreed to come here," she said.

One day grandma said, "Do you know if that dog bit you you would have to have 14 injections?"

Preeti's father said, "He has been innoculated. If he were to bite you won't need to take injections."

Preeti's grandmother was not at all convinced but she couldn't say anything.

As days went by grandma became accustomed to Tommy, though she didn't like him.

One day Preeti was at school. Preeti's mother was visiting a friend of hers. Preeti's grandmother was alone at home.

A man arrived at the doorstep and said, "Mataji, I haven't eaten for four days in a row. Can you give me something to eat?"

Preeti's grandma went into the kitchen, asking the man to wait by the door.

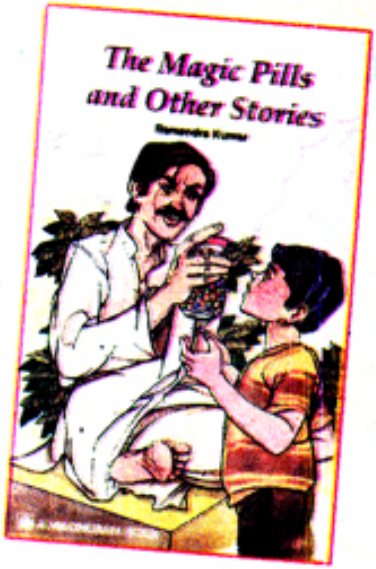
When grandma returned with a ten rupee note the man suddenly pointed a knife at her and said, "Hey, give me all your jewels or I will kill you."

Grandma was too shocked to react. She gathered her wits about her and asked him to wait. She went to the backyard, unchained Tommy and said, "Get him." Tommy pounced on the man. The commotion brought the neighbours to Preeti's house.

The thief was handed over to the police. Grandma and Tommy are the best of friends today.

D. Johnson, VIII C, KV No. 2, Chennai.

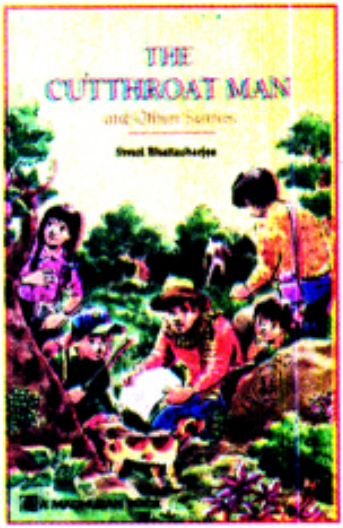
FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF



Madhuban Books, a division of Vikas Publishing House, P. Ltd., has brought out three books this time.

The Magic Pills and Other Stories

It is a collection of short stories by Ramendra Kumar. The stories are aimed at teen-aged readers. All stories focus on the travails of teen-agers. It is priced Rs. 40.



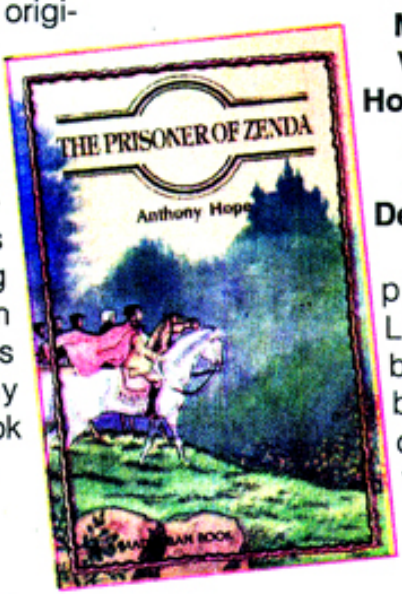
The Cutthroat Man and Other Stories

It is a collection of short stories by Swati Bhattacharjee. The stories are about children who encounter ghosts, near murderers and law-breakers. The children naturally triumph.

It is priced Rs. 40.

The Prisoner of Zenda

Written by Anthony Hope, this is an abridged version of the original story. It is the adventure of a man who accidentally becomes the king of a land. Anthony Hope is a contemporary of Thomas Hardy, Rudyard Kipling and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Anthony Hope's full name is Anthony Hope Hawkins. The book is priced Rs. 35.



Madhuban Books, Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., 576, Masjid Road, Jangpura, N. Delhi - 14.

Gulmohar, an imprint of Orient Longman has brought out two books aimed at children aged between 10 and 16.

Chikka

It is the story of a boy who runs away from home and lands a job in a town, thanks to a helpful old man. How Chikka manages to evade the clutches of evil thoughts forms the rest of the story. Chikka learns to earn money and thanks to his employer, he even learns english. The story ends with the boy promising himself that he would go to school. Written by Hira Nirodi Chandran, it is priced Rs. 60.

Adventure In The Snows

It is the story of two boys who go trekking in the Himalayas. Mountaineering is not all fun. It is a lot of trouble and there is fear of losing one's life too. Written by Manmohan Singh Bawa, the book is priced Rs. 55.

Gulmohar, An imprint of Orient Longman limited, 3-6-272, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad - 500 029.

NAME THESE PHOBIAS

Fear of men
Fear of women
Fear of cats
Fear of water
Fear of heights
Fear of depths
Fear of crowds
Fear of books
Fear of darkness
Fear of crossing streets

Answers:

Androphobia, Gynaephobia
Ailurophobia, Hydrophobia
Acrophobia, Bathophobia
Ochlophobia, Bibliophobia
Nyctophobia, Dromophobia

Basil George, age 14
KV-2, Bangalore

THE JEALOUS PRINCE

King Pratap of Ratnapuri had two wives. They were Ramaprabha and Chandramani. Both of them gave birth to a son each. The two princes were equally trained in all arts that befit a prince. Like their mothers, both of them were envious of each other. Veer was the son of Ramaprabha and Sudhir was the son of Chandramani. Veer and Sudhir were always plotting to put the other to shame.

One day the king decided to go sailing in the river next to his palace with his wives.

In the middle of the river when the king was relaxing a huge crocodile collided with the boat. All the three were thrown into the water. The river had many crocodiles. None of the three returned to the shore.

The ministers held a conference. Both the princes were fit to be kings but the ministers wondered who was the better of the two.

Sudhir was walking in the palace garden when he heard a voice say, "Prince Veer's mother was a sweeper's grand-daughter". Sudhir was waiting for such an opportunity. If only he could establish the veracity of the statement he would be crowned the king.

He hunted high and low for the owner of the voice. But the palace garden was empty. Finally, he decided to visit the yogis of the hills of Ratnapuri. They had all information about the kingdom on their fingertip.

Prince Sudhir set off immediately to the hills. At the foothills he met a beautiful maiden. Prince Sudhir fell in love with her on sight. He spent many days at the foothills in the house of the beautiful maiden. One day, he proposed to her. Sukanya, for that was the name of the maiden, consented and the couple were married. They spent many happy days there.

One day Prince Sudhir told her about his purpose of visiting the hills.

Sukanya said that she was a gandharva and wished to take him to

her land.

Prince Sudhir said tht he would first find out about Veer's mother.

He asked Sukanya to disguise herself as an old woman. He believed that she would be able to elicit more information from the yogis than himself. So, Sukanya disguised herself as an old woman. The yogis told her that it was true that one of the ancestors of Veer's mother had been a sweeper.

Prince Sudhir and Sukanya returned to the palace of King Pratap. Prince Sudhir decided to tell the ministers what he had heard.

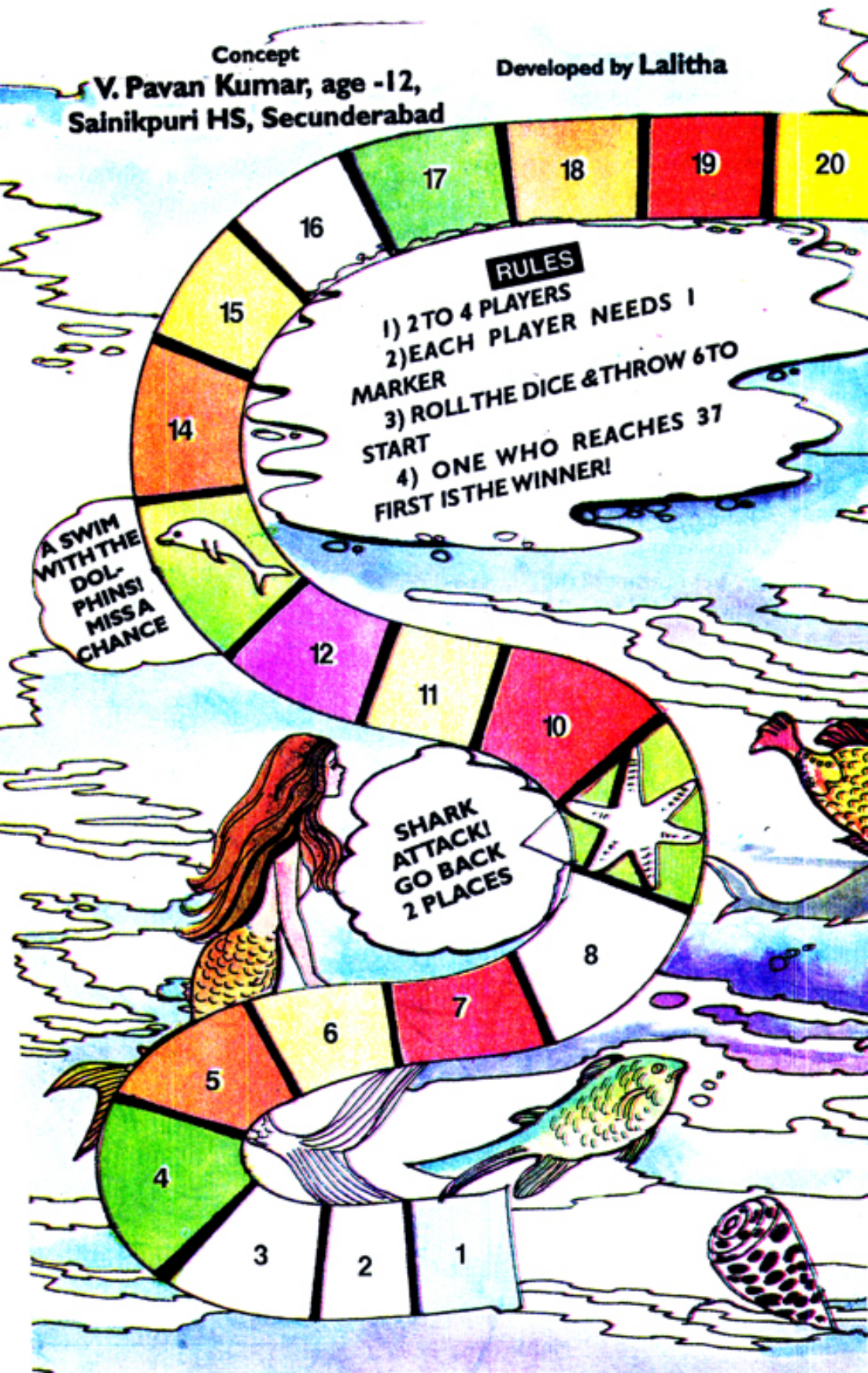
Prince Veer overheard the conversation betwen Prince Sudhir and a minister. He rushed out from his hiding place and drove a knife through the stomach of Prince Sudhir killing him instantly. Sukanya, who now threw away her disguise took Prince Veer by surprise.

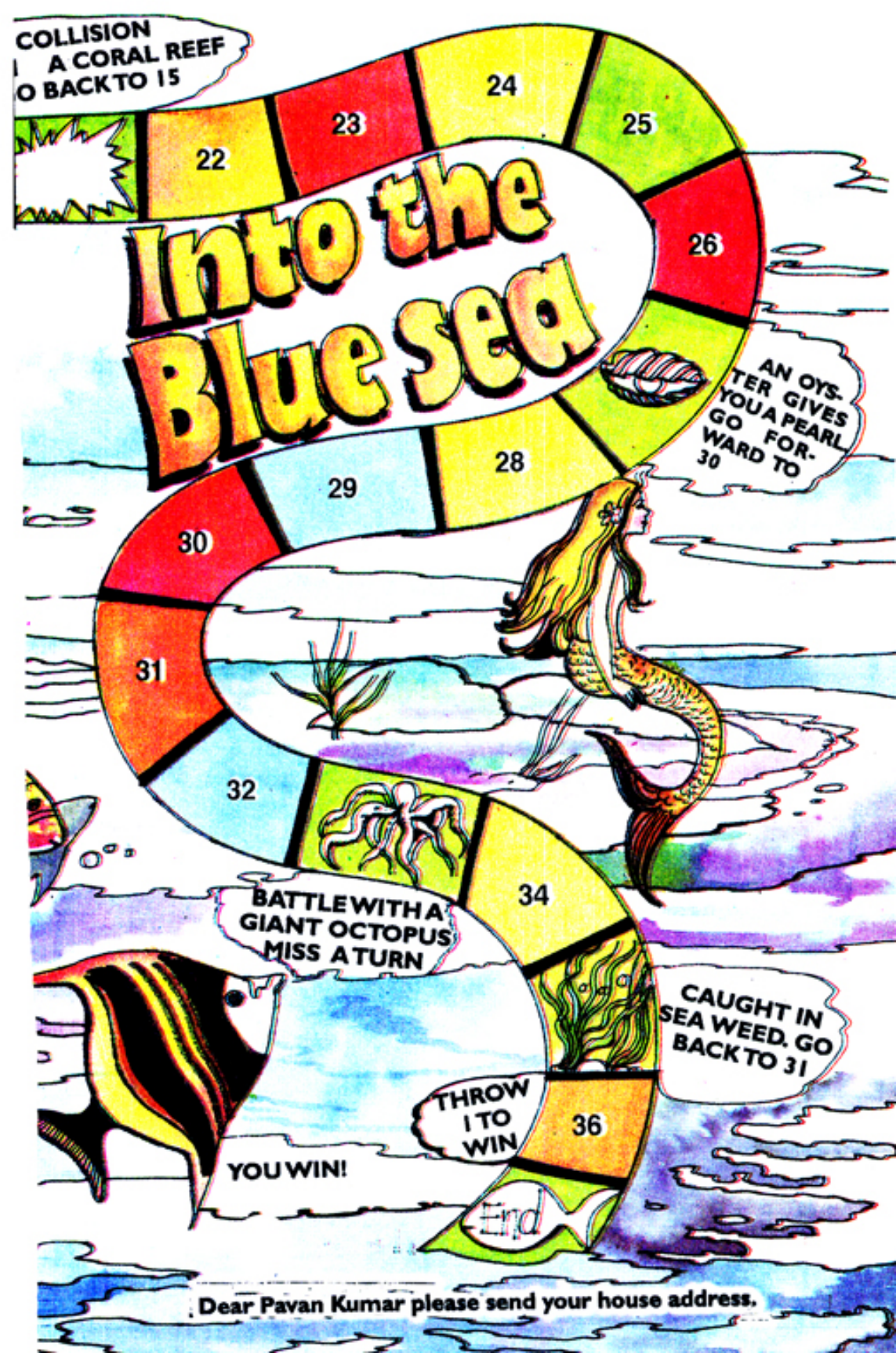
Prince Veer had no difficulty in killing Sukanya. The minister was a witness to both the killings. He realised that the people of Ratnapuri did not deserve a king as villainous as Veer. He killed Prince Veer and declared to the people of Ratnapuri that they would have a democratic form of government.

S. Srividhya, age 13,
St. Ann's HS,
Secunderabad.

Concept
V. Pavan Kumar, age -12,
Sainikpuri HS, Secunderabad

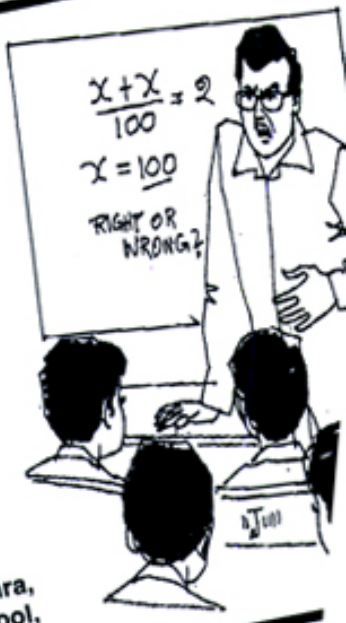
Developed by Lalitha




COLLISION
A CORAL REEF
O BACK TO 15
22
23
24
25
26
Into the Blue sea
AN OYS-
TER GIVES
YOU A PEARL
GO FOR-
WARD TO
30
28
29
30
31
32
34
BATTLE WITH A
GIANT OCTOPUS
MISS A TURN
CAUGHT IN
SEA WEED. GO
BACK TO 31
THROW
1 TO
WIN
36
YOU WIN!
End
Dear Pavan Kumar please send your house address.

EXPERIENCE

MY MATHS TEACHER



Into the class he enters like a brewing storm,
We squirm in our seats like a can of worms,
His anger no one would like to face,
His agile brain works out sums apace.
He is caring, loving and thoughtful,
He brings to class books by the armful,
That have sums aplenty to solve,
We pray in tears we don't dissolve.
If we make a mistake in numbers
We feel like rotten cucumbers.
He will sometimes crack a joke
Enough to make us all laugh and choke.
He who spends all his life only with numbers
Him, how can anyone not remember?

Ruchi Mishra,
Std. X, LPS Public School,
Rayagada, Orissa

EXPERIENCE

TRAPPED!

My brother and I had many friends in a neighbouring block of flats. We never used the lift in that block as a rule.

That day, however, I persuaded my brother to use the lift instead of the stairs. We entered the lift and closed the doors. My brother told me to shut the lift doors properly. I said I had shut them well.

The lift, however, stopped midway. My brother and I were terrified. We were stranded between the first and the second floors.

We shouted for help. But no one heard us. After about half an hour one of my friends came out of her house to find out what had happened.

She noticed us stranded in the lift and helped us by calling the lift service.

My brother and I reached home safely. Since then we never use a lift unless we have an adult with us.

C. Ishwarya,
VIII A,
Sri Sivaswami Kalalaya,
Chennai.

EXPERIENCE

EXPERIENCE

EXPERIENCE

THE THIEF

The school had just reopened. We were still adjusting to the new routine. To their dismay some students discovered that their pencils and rubbers were getting lost. Sometimes even classwork notebooks were lost.

Our class teacher appointed me to monitor the class during recess and the sports period. Sandeep, a classmate was asked to assist me. Sandeep and I spent much of our free hours in the class. When we were in the class there was no theft. We began to breathe easy.

However, we wanted to find out who the culprit was. One day Sandeep and I decided to close the door making the culprit feel that the room was empty. Accordingly, we shut the door and waited for the culprit to put in an appearance. We hid ourselves under the table. Soon, the door opened. We rushed out and grabbed the culprit.

To our shock we saw that it was our teacher. She said she had come to check why the class door was closed.

Since then our teachers call us "Sherlock brothers!".

Pallavi Prasad, age 14,
Nightingales School,
Bangalore.

SAVED BY THE BELL

It was lunch break. I had my lunch, played in the playground till the bell sounded and then returned to the class. The food and the play had sufficiently tired me. I was feeling drowsy.

Somehow I managed to stay awake. Our physics teacher was teaching "Heat". Finally, the physics class was over.

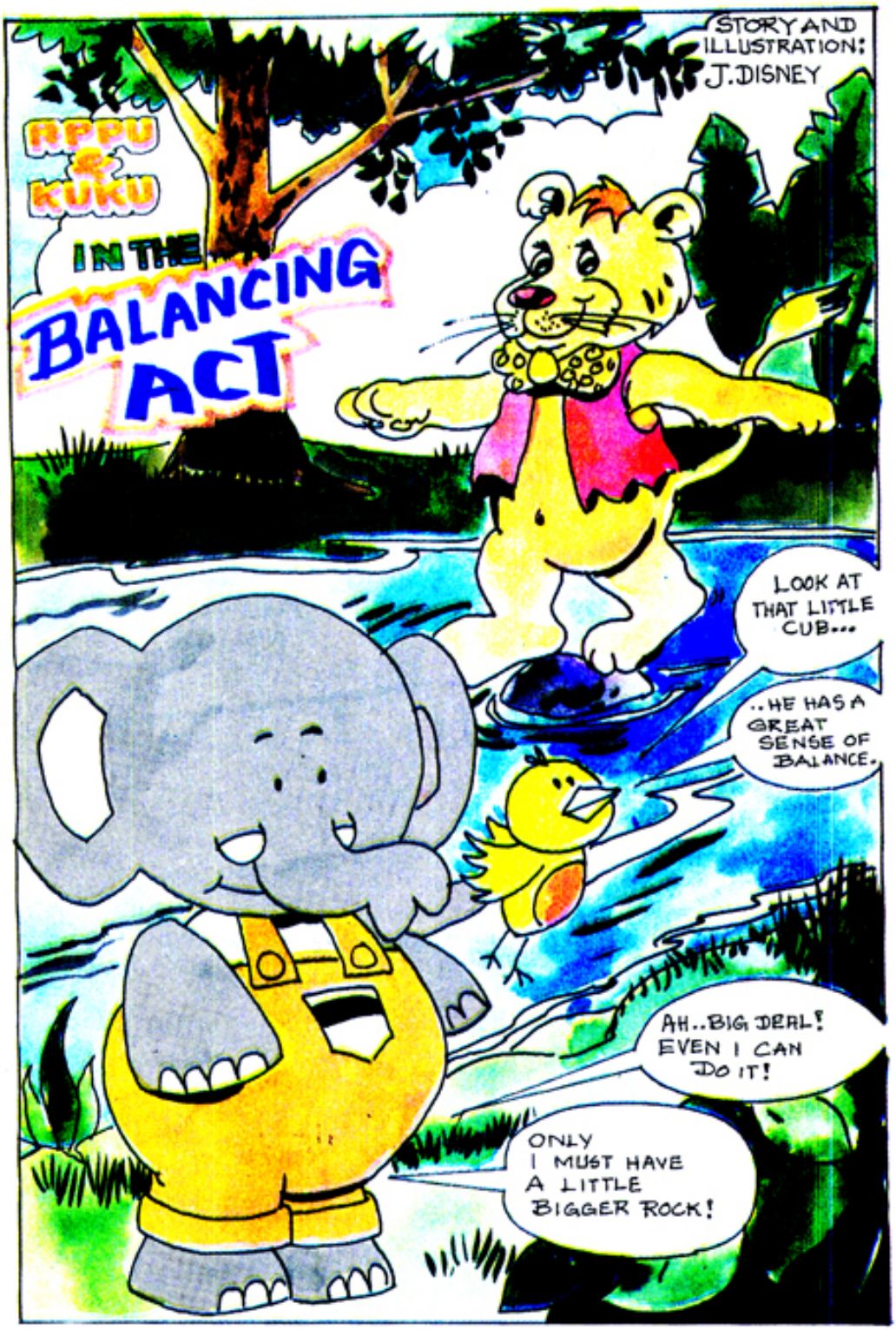
The next day the first hour was to be taken up by the physics teacher. As we walked into the class my friend asked me if I was prepared for the oral test that the teacher had planned. I asked her in surprise, "When did he announce this in class?"

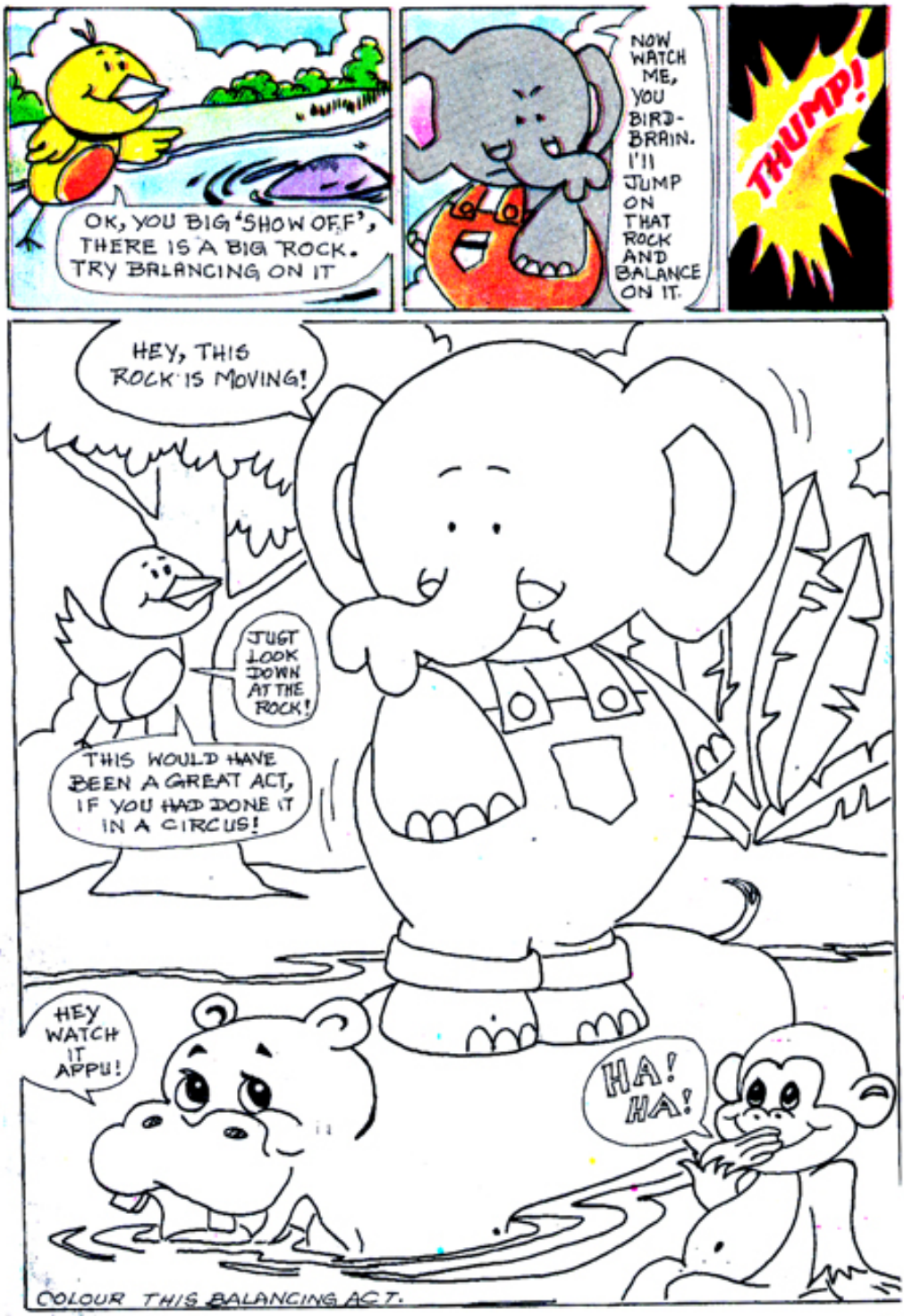
She said, "Why yesterday, before leaving the class he made it very clear."

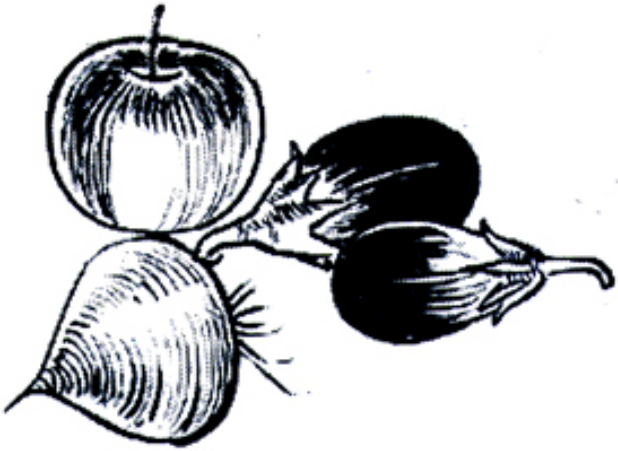
I cursed myself for having dozed. The teacher asked questions of each student. Finally, the girl seated next to me was asked a question. It was an essay type question. She stood up and said, "Sir, I didn't understand that portion."

The teacher began explaining the answer. Soon the bell rang and I thanked my lucky stars that I had been saved from humiliation.

P. Teena, age 14,
Smt. Durgabai Chowdry
Vivekananda Vidhyalaya,
Chennai


STORY AND ILLUSTRATION: J. DISNEY
APPU & KUKU
IN THE BALANCING ACT
LOOK AT THAT LITTLE CUB...
..HE HAS A GREAT SENSE OF BALANCE.
AH..BIG DEAL! EVEN I CAN DO IT!
ONLY I MUST HAVE A LITTLE BIGGER ROCK!


OK, YOU BIG 'SHOW OFF', THERE IS A BIG ROCK. TRY BALANCING ON IT
NOW WATCH ME, YOU BIRD-BRAIN. I'LL JUMP ON THAT ROCK AND BALANCE ON IT.
THUMP!
HEY, THIS ROCK IS MOVING!
JUST LOOK DOWN AT THE ROCK!
THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT ACT, IF YOU HAD DONE IT IN A CIRCUS!
HEY WATCH IT APPU!
HA! HA!
COLOUR THIS BALANCING ACT.



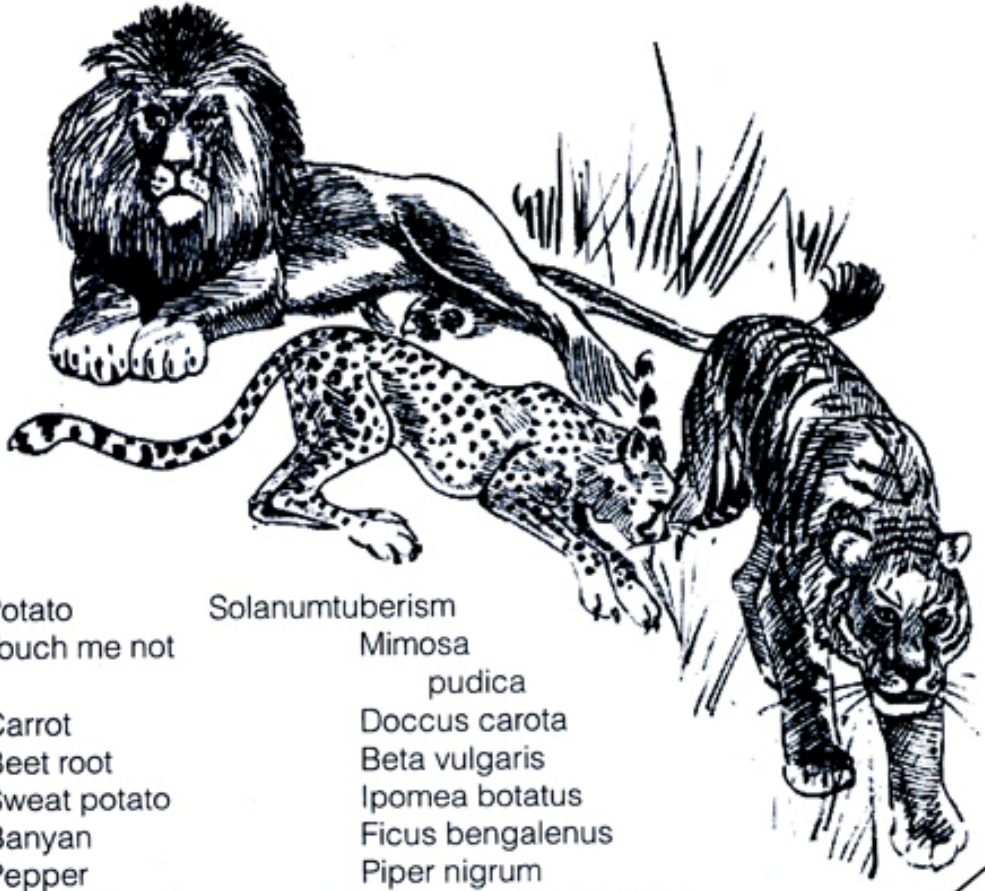
What's in a name?

Binominal nomenclature means "the naming of a living being with two words." A book consisting of all the binominal names of all plants and animals has been written by a scientist Carl Van Linnaeus.

Binominal names make the communication between the scientists of the world much easier.

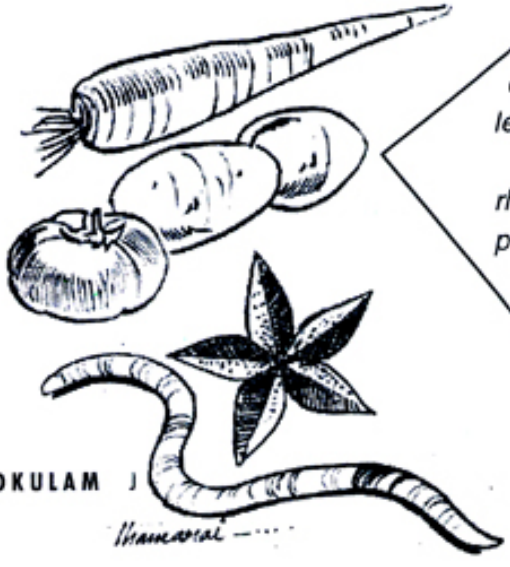
Each binominal name consists of two different names viz, genetic name and specific name. The genetic names always begin with a capital letter and the specific name begins with a small letter. Here are some binominal names:

Common Name	*Binominal Name*
Man	Home sapien
Tiger	Panthera tigris
Lion	Panthera leo
Cat	Felis domestica
Cockroach	Periplaneta americana
Leopard	Panthera pardus
Pond frog	Rana hexadactyla
Earthworm	Megascolex mauritii
Star fish	Asterias rubens
Snail	Pila globosa
Rat	Rattus rattus
Mango	Mangifera indica
Banana	Meuso paradisica
Lady's finger	Hibiscus esculentus
Raddish	Raphanus sativus
Neem	Azadinochla indica
Apple	Pyrus malus
Shoe flower	Hibiscus rosasinensis
Brinjal	Solanum melangina



Potato	Solanumtuberism
Touch me not	Mimosa pudica
Carrot	Doccus carota
Beet root	Beta vulgaris
Sweat potato	Ipomea botatus
Banyan	Ficus bengalenus
Pepper	Piper nigrum
Tomato	Solanum lycopersicum
Rose	Roas certifolia
Turnip	Brassica rapa
Betel	Piper betle.

S. Balaji, age 14,
Sree Narayana Mission School,
Chennai



- *The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is uncopyrightable.*
- *'Stewardesses' is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.*
- *. No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver and purple.*

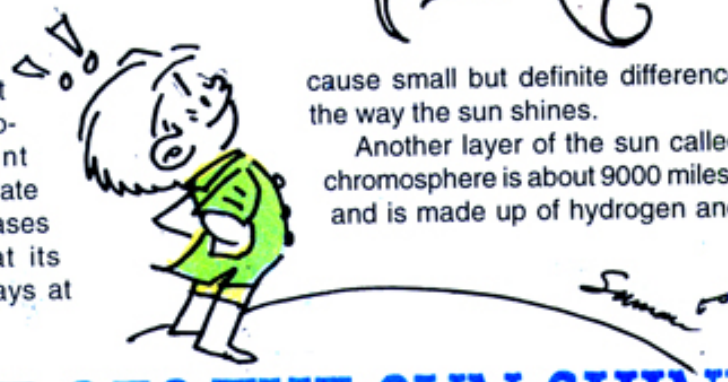
Sandhya Sumathi Baskar,
std III B,
IES RECCAMARN
Primary school,
Bandra (W)

HOW DOES THE SUN SHINE?

The sun is a star and so it shines by its own light. Where does it get the energy?

It is now believed that hydrogen atoms in the very hot interior of the sun combine to form helium. When this happens, it sets free energy which flows steadily to its surface. The sun should be able to continue radiating this energy for many millions of years to come.

The sun is not a solid body like the earth. Different parts of the sun rotate at different rates. The sun's rate of rotation increases from 25 days at its equator to 34 days at the poles.



The outer layer of the sun is called the corona. It is composed of light gaseous matter. The outer part of this corona is white and its steamers extend out millions of miles from the edge of the sun. These may cause small but definite differences in the way the sun shines.

Another layer of the sun called the chromosphere is about 9000 miles thick and is made up of hydrogen and helium gas largely. From this projects huge clouds called 'prominences' which may rise to heights of 1,000,000 miles.

- Gayathri, age 15, Sri Sankara Vidhyalaya, Chennai.

FIND IT

There's is a little green house.
In it there's a little brown house.
In the brown house is a little white house.
Inside the little white house is a pool.
What is it?

Ans : Coconut

K. Anirudh, age 12, St. Joseph's PS, Hyderabad.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sachin Tendulkar's grandfather was a fan of the great music director Sachin Dev Burman and named his grandson after him.

Sunil Gavaskar was so ill-tempered as a child that his parents often worried if anything was wrong with him.

Mohammed Azaruddin is the most successful Indian captain. So far under his captaincy India has won the highest number of matches.

Rahul Dravid prefers his mother's cooking or home-made food to any restaurant in the world.

Anil Kumble prepares himself mentally by bowling to each batsman in the opposite team the night before the match.

Javagal Srinath is a qualified engineer.

Ajay Jadeja's full name is Ajay Singhji Daulat Singhji Jadeja.

Robin Singh is a good example of a 'bits and pieces' cricketer. He is a good batsman, a decent back-up bowler and a good fielder. He is an asset anywhere on the field.

R.V. Mayil Vahanan, age 14,
Don Bosco HS, Madurai

VIEWPOINT

Women or men?

I disagree with Poonam Reddy's view (April '99). Women are treated better these days. Women do much better than men both in public life and in workplace. Many women do 'slog in the kitchen'. If the man of the house earns then the other half of the work in a house has to be done by the person who has the time for it.

* Should boys learn to cook?

If a woman prefers staying in the house then where's the harm in doing this kind of job? I know of many households where both parents take turns to do the kitchen work. Women are even being considered for 33% reservation in Parliament. Where then are they being treated as chattels?

R. Nivas, XI E,
BHEL, MHSS, Trichy.

* Diversity in language and culture is a blessing

For a better future

India will be entering the next millennium with a population of one billion. We are still fighting among ourselves. We have people of different religions in this country. We have people who speak a number of languages even within a state. Should we not use this to our advantage? Should we not unite and fight the forces that are threatening to break us up?

Our fight is not just against evil forces but also against corruption and evil social practices. Let us turn this diversity in language and culture to our advantage. Surely then we will have a better future?

S. Madhusudan, age 15,
Bangalore.

Dear Madhusudan, pl. send in the name of your school.

What is child labour?

So much has been said about child labour. I am not going to talk about the pros and cons of child labour. If we can earn money and pay for our education don't we become more responsible?

I am against making children work in factories and in households for most part of the day. These children work throughout the day. They contact diseases like bronchitis, TB and leprosy. They are then removed from work. They find themselves on the streets.

They take to begging. Children working in looms get paid a meagre Rs. 10 a day. This money is not enough to feed a large family of four. Instead if the parents of such children are taught that their children must be educated, we may have better people in the future.

Educated boys and girls from poor economic background could learn skills that could help them eke out a living.

N. Meiyammai, age 13,
DTEA School, N. Delhi.

* Earning a living

Population, population!

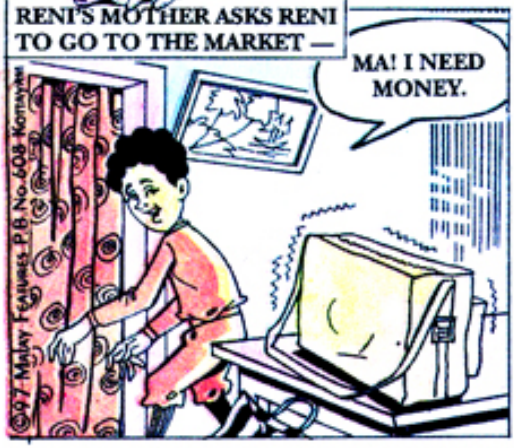
Population growth is not the concern of one particular nation. The world population in 1830 was about 1,000 million. It rose to 2,000 million in 1930. A major contribution to population has been by developing countries. Economically backward countries have made little progress in containing population explosion. Our own country is faced with a population of one billion.

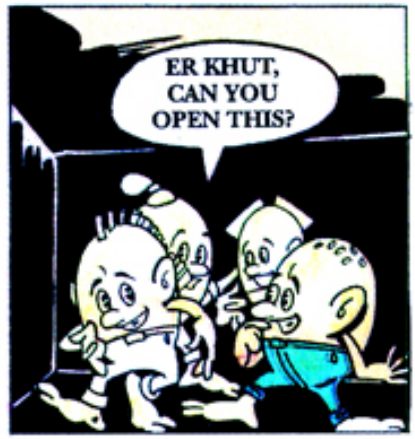
If each of us understood that by contributing to rise in population, we only face unsatisfactory life styles in the future then we would probably learn to prevent population explosion.

R. Mohanasundaram, age 15,
Trichy.

BALLTOONS 8

Script : CHALAM Art : C.J. ROY





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TO CONTINUE

THE REVENGE

Rita and Nita were good friends. They had the reputation of being inseparable. Both Rita and Nita always bought pens, bags and pencils of the same colour. One day, however, the girls had a fight. Neither spoke to the other. This is what happened:

The teacher announced a test in class. Rita had not studied for the test. Nita was well prepared for the test. When the students were handed over the questions, Rita tried to copy some answers from Nita's paper.

This angered Nita. She told the teacher that Rita was copying answers from her paper. Rita hadn't expected this. She felt betrayed and decided to pay back Nita in her own coin. Rita refused to talk to Nita.

That afternoon, Nita and the other girls went to the playground for a game of hide'n' seek. Rita was waiting for such an opportunity. Rita picked up a few items from the bags of other students and dropped it into Nita's bag. She then walked out of the class.

That afternoon,many children in the class found that their pencils or pens were missing. The children complained to their class teacher. The class teacher said she would check the bags of all the students. Soon, each child had to open her bag and show it to the teacher. When her turn came, Rita walked confidently up to the teacher's desk.

When she opened her bag she was shocked to find that all the tiems that she had stolen from the other children were in her bag. It was then she realised that she had mistaken her bag to be Nita's bag and had dropped all the items into her own bag.

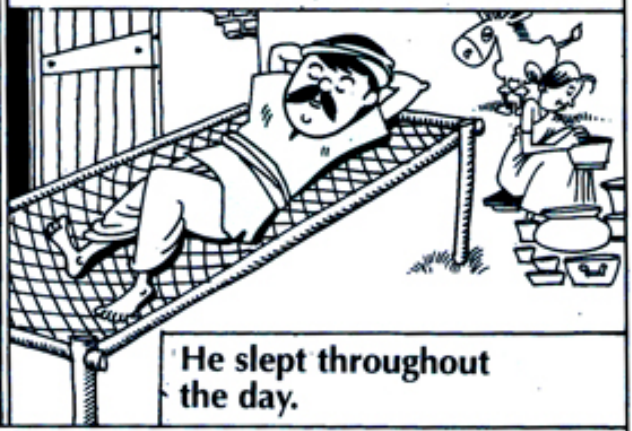
Rita was punished and her parents were asked to meet the teacher.

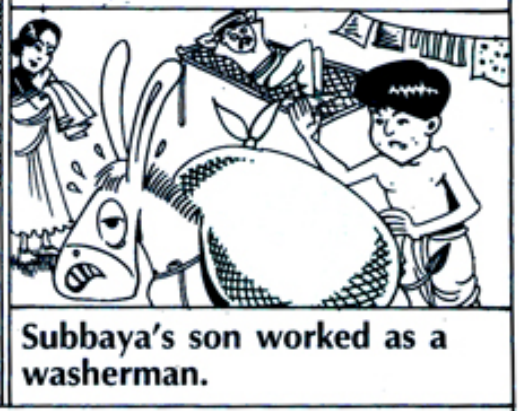
Sanjana Deshpande,
age 14,
Bangalore

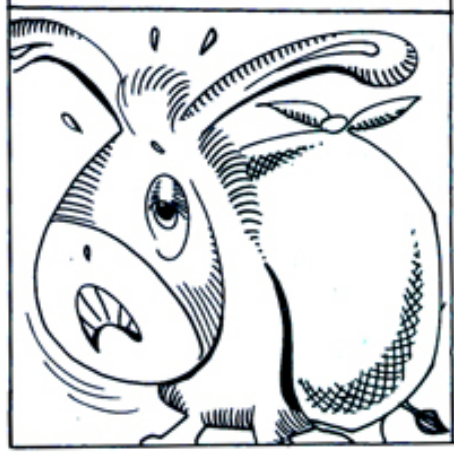
Dear Sanjana, pl. send in the name of your school.

BEAST OF BURDEN

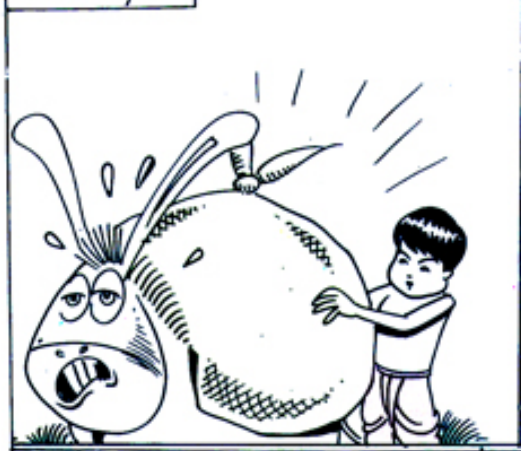
Story :
Kolar Krishna Iyer
Illustration : **Mahesh**



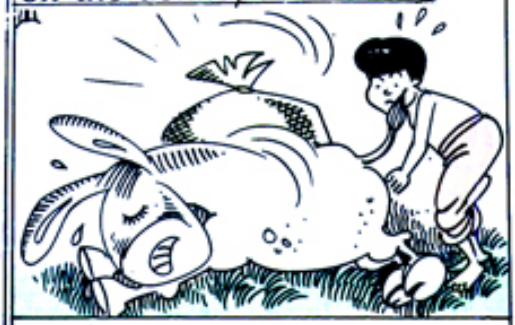




One day —

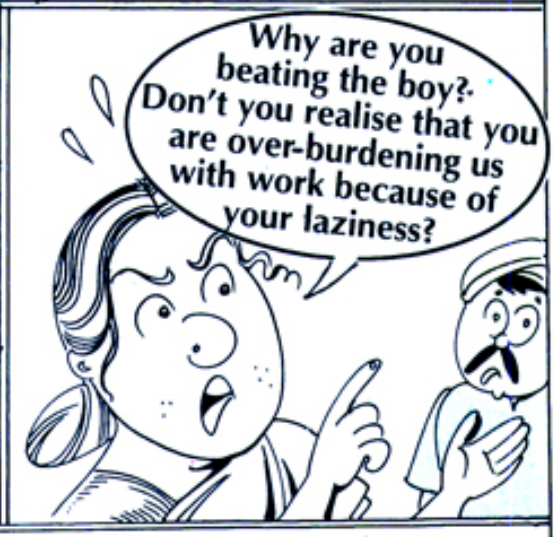


The boy placed the clothes on the donkey's back and



tried to sit on it. The donkey's legs buckled.

Subbaya thought the donkey had died. He accused his son of over-burdening the donkey and beat him up.



Subbaya learnt a lesson that day. Since then he has turned a new leaf.

'I' CARE

During monsoon, we often hear of conjectivitis. It is fun because we can bunk school, but we have to stay in bed. Here's a way to keep our eyes healthy.

◆ Wash eyes with clean water many times a day. Wash eyes before going to bed.

◆ Clean eyes with a tissue paper or a clean handkerchief. Never use dirty cloth or dupatta.

◆ Every morning on waking up, sprinkle water on the eyes. This improves eyesight.

◆ Never use hot water to wash eyes. It harms vision.

◆ When the eyes feel itchy, wash eyes with two drops of good quality rose water.

◆ Try to maintain a distance of one and a half feet between the eye and the book while reading.

◆ Always maintain a distance of 20 feet between the eyes and the TV set while watching TV.

◆ Do not lie down and read or watch TV. It harms eyesight.

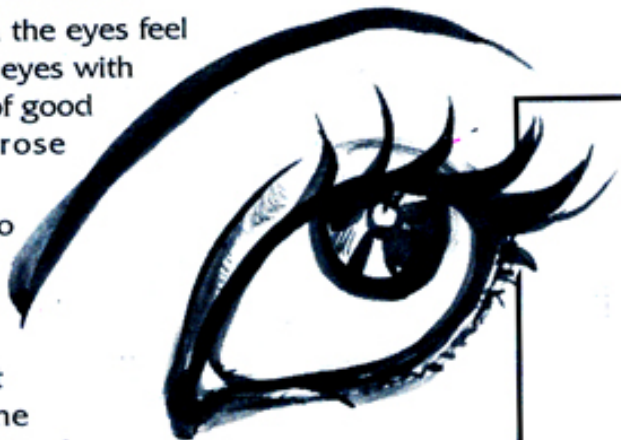
◆ Protect eyes from dust and bright light.

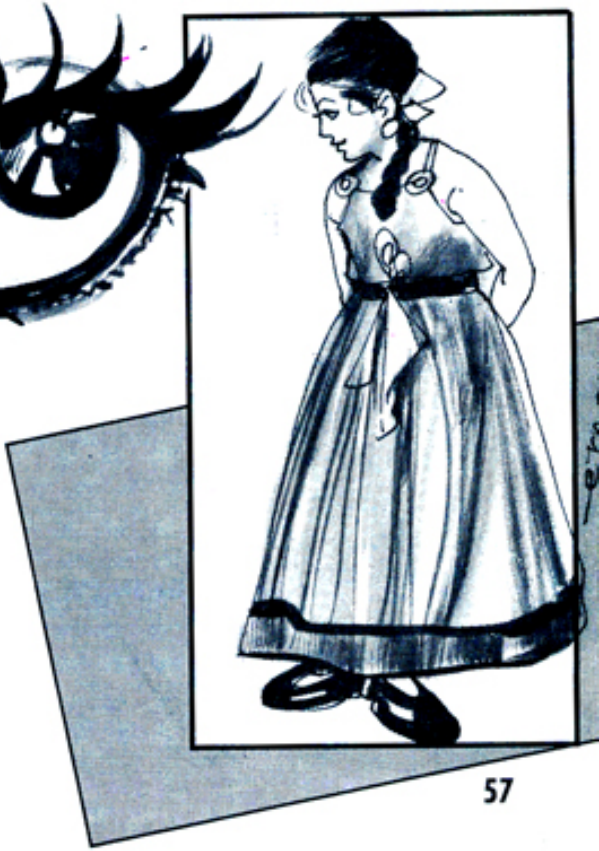
◆ Do not use medicines on the eyes without consulting a doctor. Use eye drops within a month of purchase. Do not use leftovers. Throw them away.

◆ Remove make-up from the eyes when not necessary.

Sunaina, age 17,
Chennai.

Dear Sunaina, pl. send in the name of your school.



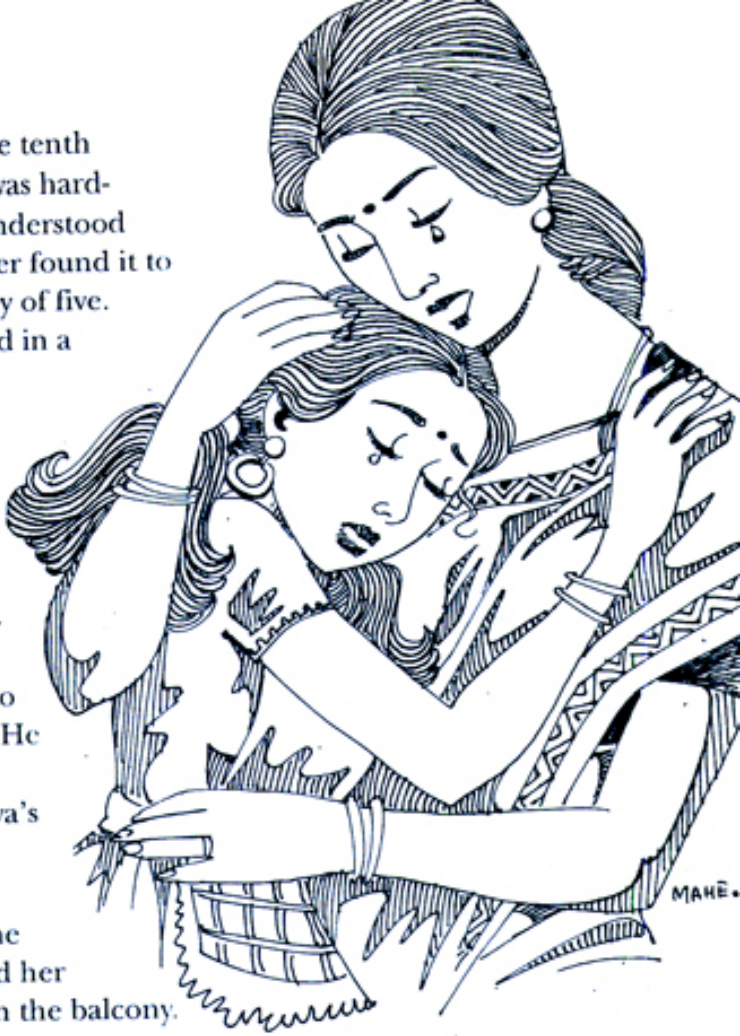


When father RETURNED...

Abinaya was in the tenth standard. She was hard-working and understood how difficult her mother found it to feed and clothe a family of five. Abinaya's father worked in a middle-east Asian country. His salary went into looking after Abinaya, her mother, her uncle who was in college and her widowed aunt.

For over a month now, there had been no news from her father. He usually wrote to them twice a month. Abinaya's mother was worried.

One evening when Abinaya returned home from school, she found her mother seated alone in the balcony.



She went upto her and hugged her mother.

"What's wrong mother?" she asked.

Mother looked up at her and said, "I'm worried about your father. I heard on the radio that the mid-east Asian countries are at war."

Abinaya understood what war meant. Families were displaced, people left without a trace and houses and buildings were razed to the ground.

Abinaya too was worried now. Every evening they went to their neighbour's house to watch news on the TV. Four months passed by and there was still no

news from her father.

Then one day Abinaya came home in tears. Her friend in school told her that her father had returned home from a tour. He had bought for her gifts. This upset Abinaya very much. Abinaya had to be consoled by her mother. The next day the principal called for Abinaya. He told her if Abinaya's parents did not pay up the school fees, her name would be removed from the attendance register.

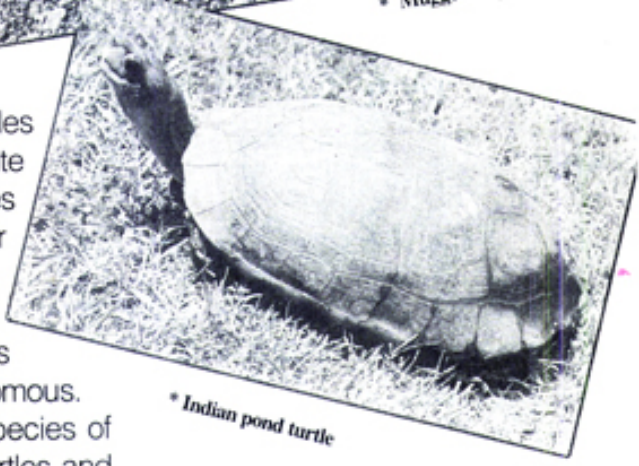
That evening the owner of the house that Abinaya's parents had rented called on them. He said he would give Abinaya's mother only two days' time. If Abinaya's mother didn't pay up the rent by then, they would have to vacate the premises.

Abinaya and her mother spent a sleepless night. Around 1 a.m. there was a knock on the front door. Abinaya and her mother looked at each other. Somebody called out "Abinaya".

Wait! the voice sounded familiar. Abinaya and her mother walked up to the door. Mother opened the door and there stood Abinaya's father!

N. Kavitha, IX,
Don Bosco MS.,
Chennai.

* Mugger crocodile



* Indian pond turtle

Lizards, snakes, crocodiles and turtles all constitute the group of vertebrates called reptiles. Despite their abundance and variety, they are not much liked because people believe that all reptiles are either dangerous or venomous.

India is home to three species of crocodiles, 32 species of turtles and tortoises, 170 species of lizards and about 250 species of snakes (including those found in the coastal waters).

Of these, only the salt water crocodile and five kinds of snakes namely the cobra, the king cobra, the krait and the two vipers - the Russell's viper and the saw - scaled viper are venomous. No Indian lizard is venomous.

In India we come across marsh crocodiles, the long-snouted, fish-eating Gharials and the dreaded saltwater crocodile. It will attack and devour a man, if hungry. Crocodiles, in general eat frogs, fish, crabs and a variety of insects.

Turtles are reptiles with a dome-like protective shell. Five kinds of sea turtles visit the Indian coasts for egg-laying. The turtles found in the rivers and lakes of India are known as "softshells" or "hardshells", based on the structure of their shell. The "hardshells", ("terrapins") exhibit a bony shell and their feet are partially webbed whereas the "softshells" (also called "mud turtles") exhibit disc-like shells covered with soft skin and have fully-webbed feet.

The tortoises are exclusively land-living reptiles, which are characterised by a high-domed

Some facts about

shell, elephant - like stubby feet and slow movement. Most turtles are plant-eaters. A few are carnivorous.

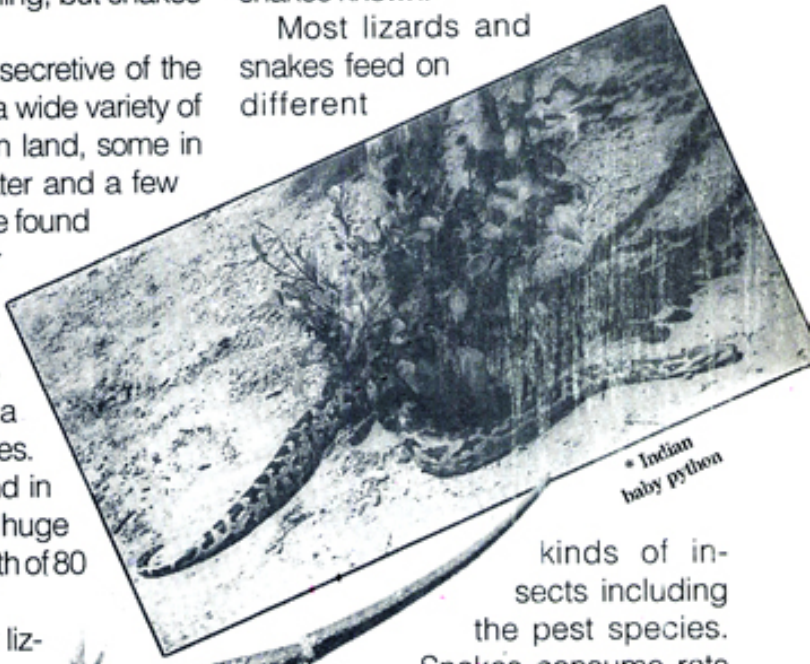
Lizards are a diversified assemblage of reptiles and they come in myriad shapes and colours. You call them geckos, agamas, skinks, monitors, chameleons and so on. They are all essentially lizards. A majority of the lizards are characterised by well - developed limbs, movable eyelids and an external ear - opening, but snakes have none of these.

Snakes, the most secretive of the reptiles, are found in a wide variety of habitats: some live on land, some in burrows, some in water and a few live on trees. A few are found either in the saltwater or the sea. In size, the saltwater crocodile and the gharial are the giants, each attaining a record size of 6.5 metres. The Chitra turtle found in the River Ganges is a huge turtle, with a shell length of 80 cm.

The water monitor lizard, which grows upto 2.5m in length, is not only the giant among Indian lizards but is also reckoned as the second largest living lizard. The rat snake, with a length of 3.5 m, is the largest harmless land snake of India while the reticulated python, which reaches an awesome length of 9m, is the largest living snake. It is found only in the Northeast and Nicobar islands. The king cobra, the most feared venomous snake, reaches a length of 5.5 m. The blind snakes are the tiniest snakes known.

Most lizards and snakes feed on different kinds of insects including the pest species. Snakes consume rats and mice. Snake venom is used in the production of antivenin- the cure for a poisonous snake's bite.

Crocodiles and turtles feed on the dead and decaying plant and animal matter and clean up the water.



* Indian baby python

* Common skink - a secretive lizard

ndian reptiles

T.S.N. Murthy, Chennai

DANGEROUS RED; BEAUTIFUL GREEN!

Red can be seen farthest since it stands out like a sore thumb! Red adds vibrant shades of meanings to other simple words and makes them more picturesque and brilliant.

A person turns 'red with anger'. A person becomes 'red-eyed' due to lack of sleep or continued crying. 'Red Gold' is real gold! 'Red Army' is the Russian Army and the 'Red book' is the list

of nobility and gentry. 'Red Box' is used for storing the official documents.

A 'red coat' is a British soldier. An 'all red route' denoted travelling in British Territory. It is so because red colour was used to denote all British territories on a world map. A 'red flag' symbolises revolution and also imminent danger.

A person caught 'red handed' is exposed in the act of committing the crime. A 'red lamp' is the night sign for a doctor or a chemist, while a 'red light area' is one flourishing in flesh-trade! Ruth-

less persons 'paint the town red' by indulging in their whims and fancies without fear or guilt.

A 'red letter day' denotes a holiday or an important day. It may also be a Saint's Day or a festival day. These days are marked red in the calendars. A 'red rag' is an object that is an eye-sore and irritates a person. A 'red cloth' is used by the bull fighter as it enrages the bull into a mad rush. 'Red tapism' results in the undue delay caused by the ex-

cessive adherence to the formalities.

A person is 'in the red' if he has a debit rather than a credit in his bank balance. A person 'sees red' if he is suddenly infuriated. 'Red Admiral' is a beautiful Eurasian butterfly. 'Red Alert' prepares a nation for a sudden emergency-man-made or natural. 'Red brick' refers to any British University dating from late 19th century as distinguished from the Oxford and The Cambridge universities.

'Red Brigade' is a terrorist group formed in Italy in 1969 and is committed to the abolition of the Capitalist Society. A 'Red Cap' is a member of the military police.

A 'Red hat' is a large tasselled hat presented to the newly created Cardinal. It is a symbol of his office and is never actually worn. A 'Red carpet welcome' is given to the distinguished guests visiting from another country. 'Red Crescent' is the branch of the 'Red Cross' Society in a Muslim country.

Mars is nicknamed as 'The Red Planet'. 'Red Dwarf' denotes any of a class of mostly main sequence stars that are generally cooler and smaller. A 'Red Giant' is one of the class of stars that are usually cool and very large and believed to be formed in the final stages of the evolution of certain stars.

'The Great Red spot' refers to the large reddish variable oval spot formed south of the Equator in the atmosphere of Jupiter.

'A Red Ensign' is a red flag with the Union Jack in the inner top corner. 'Red fire' is created by the salts of Lithium and Storntium that burn with a bright red flame in flares and fireworks. A 'red guard' is a member of the militant Chinese Youth Organisation.

BEAUTIFUL GREEN

A pair of green eyes are thought to be very beautiful. But a 'green eyed' person is a jealous monster! 'Green Food' is the healthy food supplying the body with the essential vitamins, minerals and roughage. 'Green cheese' is unripe cheese. A 'green goose' is the young goose killed

and eaten even before it is four months old. A 'green wound' is a fresh wound.

'A green house' is a large house made of glass to grow exotic and delicate plants. 'Green house effect' is caused by continual and gradual increase in the temperature of the atmospheric air due to the absorption and retention of solar radiations.

'A green horn' is a raw hand or a simpleton. A man with 'green fingers' or 'green thumb' is a very skilled gardener. A 'green back' is a U.S. legal tender notice. 'A green book' is the official publication of the Government of India. 'Green paper' is a British government document published to allow consultation among the interested parties before the legislature proposals are finalised. 'A green man' is golf course keeper. 'Green room' accommodates the artistes when they are off the stage.

'Green ivory' is the most prized ivory as it is best to work with and is obtained from a recently killed elephant. Eco-cautious refusal by a trade union to do any work that might harm the environment is the famous 'green-ban'. 'Green belt' is an area of parks or uncultivated land surrounding a city or town.

A member of the U.S. commando unit is a 'green beret'. 'Green bottle' is a common insect having a green metallic colouring. 'A green head' is a male mullard duck. 'A green leek' is an all green Australian parrot. 'Green monkey' is the African monkey with yellow grey fur tinged with green.

'Green card' is a U.S. permit given to the foreigners allowing an unconditional residence. 'Green Cross Code' is a set of rules that teach young children rules of road safety.

'Green revolution' is the increased agricultural production in developing countries as a result of using high yielding varieties and modern techniques. 'Green stick fracture' occurs in the long bones of young children and young animals. The bone gets bent and splintered but does not break completely. 'Green soap' is the soft medicated soap prepared from vegetable oils to treat chronic skin disorders. 'Green stone' is the Jade used to make protective talisman and tools.

Visalakshi Ramani,
Coimbatore

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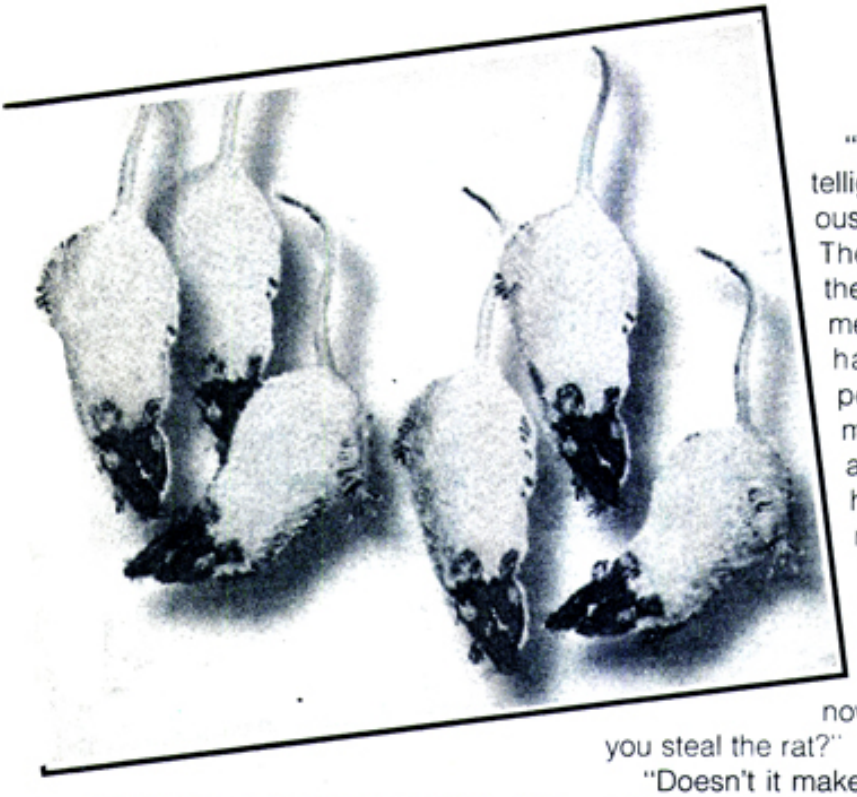


"I am Fredrick Lawson, the grandson of colonel Lawson who was ousted by Ivan."

"But why are you here and what do you want?" Philip asked.

"I want to avenge his death. I promised him I'd avenge his exile and death. I have amassed a large fortune by looting, crime and piracy. I could have easily lead a lavish life but I wanted to keep my promise to him."

"Your men must be acting as spies of the Fridvay government. They must be in the army and the palace. You couldn't have done all that you managed to do without their help," Bharath said.

"You are quick, intelligent and dangerous too. You are right. The top officials of the defence department work for me. I have quite a few people working for me in the palace and the guest house. I'll soon rule Mastario, after having exterminated the Fridvays."

Philip was now livid. "Why did you steal the rat?"

"Doesn't it make sense to you? It was the rats that were responsible for my grandfather's downfall. I shall use that rat to ascend the throne."

Philip was now very angry and fell upon Fredrick. He was easily overpowered by two of Lawson's men. The three boys were then tied up.

THE SILVER

Fredrick placed the silver rat on the table and sneered, "Here, take a last look at this. Because you will be killed in the morning."

Anand said dejectedly, "What a way to die! We're doomed."

"All's not lost," Bharath said. "Look, I'm almost free now." Anand and Philip

gaped at him.

"How did you do that?" Philip asked.

"He must have held his breath when he was bound. When he released his breath the ropes loosened and he has freed himself."

Bharath then freed Anand and Philip. Anand picked up the silver rat and the three boys walked out of the room. A man who noticed them pounced on Anand. Bharath punched the man on the nose. The man reeled back in pain.

Anand said, "Come on, I'm sure there are more men here than we realised."

"Quick, into the basement," Bharath said. The boys ran to the basement.

RAT

PART VIII

Fredrick's men followed them into the basement.

The boys were tiring rapidly. They were slowing down. The rats in the basement were making running difficult.

"Where's the silver rat?" Philip asked.

"It's..." a hard blow on his head threw Anand off-balance. He fell unconscious. Bharath and Philip dragged Anand to a corner. The men were unlikely to find them there.

Anand regained consciousness after some time. "Where am I?" he asked trying to sit.

"We brought you here." Bharath said.

"All I remember was running out of the castle," Anand said weakly.

"Must be a temporary black out."

"My head, it hurts badly," cried Anand.

Bharath told Anand all that had happened since their escape from the room.

"Where's the rat?" Philip asked.

"As far as I remember, I had it with me, till everything went blank."

"Don't you remember anything that happened?"

"Nope," Anand said trying to shake his head. "Ouch, it hurts badly."

"Oh no! The rat's gone again," cried Philip.

"I'm truly sorry Philip. I just don't remember." Anand sounded unhappy.

"I understand," Philip said dejectedly.

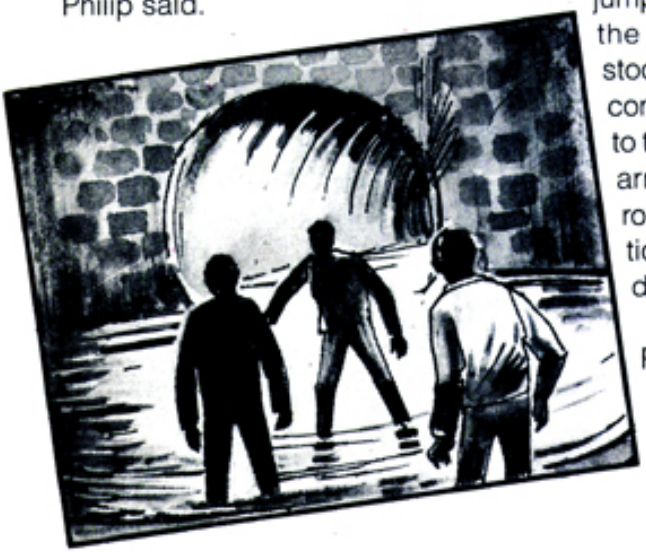
It was dark and humid inside. A few rats were still scampering around.

The voices of the men who were chasing them could still be heard.

"We can't stay here forever," Philip said.

"But how do we get out of here?"

"Let's get to the entrance of the basement. I still have two darts with me. We can use them to escape," Philip said.



"It's risky. We may be caught."

Philip was angry. "Oh yeah? Do you think Ivan Fridvay had another way out?"

Bharath said thoughtfully, "Perhaps he did. Just feel the walls."

Philip ran his hand around the walls. "What about it?"

"One side is rougher than the other. The roughness is due to the bullets."

"Where did the bullets come from?" Philip asked.

"When Ivan was in the basement Col. Lawson's men spotted him and began firing," Bharath said.

"And how did he escape?" Anand asked.

"Search here. There must be a way out."

The boys ran their hands on the stone walls. "Ouch," Philip exclaimed. He had hurt his toe.

Philip felt the stone floor beneath his feet. "Wooden plank?" The boys removed the wooden plank. "Sewage lines," Philip exclaimed.

"Quick, jump in." The three of them jumped into the sewer and replaced the plank. Inside the sewer they stood in the dirty water, thoroughly confused. Slowly their eyes adjusted to the darkness. Bharath noticed an arrow mark. They followed the arrow mark till they came to a junction. Here the sewer went in four different directions.

"There must be a way out," Philip said.

To continue,
S. Srikanth, age - 17,
Kudremukh.

MYTHOLOGY

THE SPIDER

Archane was the beautiful daughter of a famous Greek merchant. The merchant wove long lengths of lovely cloth. Archane too wove exquisite cloth.

Archane was, however, very proud of her abilities. She said she was the best in Greece. Why, she often thought there was no one in the world who could weave a cloth as beautifully as she could. Soon, Archane became bold enough to declare that she was even better than Athene, the goddess of needle work. People of the town did not like this, because they believed it was wrong to speak of the goddess without respect.

One day, Athene decided to visit earth in the disguise of an old woman. The old woman sat beside Archane as she wove cloth. Soon Archane began boasting about her ability.

The old woman advised Archane to stop talking about goddesses that way. Archane wouldn't listen to her. So angered was Athene, that the goddess became her original self. Goddess Athene asked her to compete with her. Both women began weaving and did not stop until sundown.

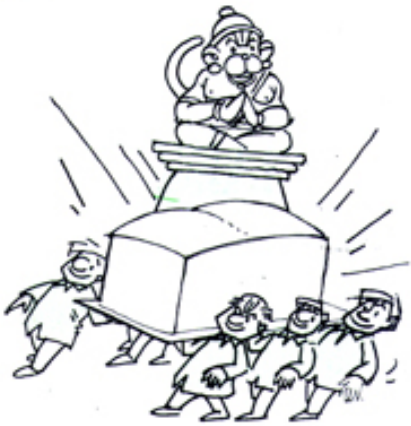
When the sun went down Archane noticed that Goddess Athene's cloth was the finest she had even seen spun by a hand.

Ashamed, Archane killed herself by hanging.

Goddess Athene said, "You shall live Archane. You will weave your own house. If your house is destroyed you shall weave your house again. You will have eight legs. Athene touched her and Archane regained life. But she became small and turned into a spider. That was how the spiders came into the world.

S. Saranya, VII A,
Subramanya Bharathiyar School,
Pondicherry.

SNIPPETS



STAR ATTRACTION

A loaf of bread, weighing 251 kg., was the star attraction at the Hanuman Jayanti celebration at a temple in Delhi recently.

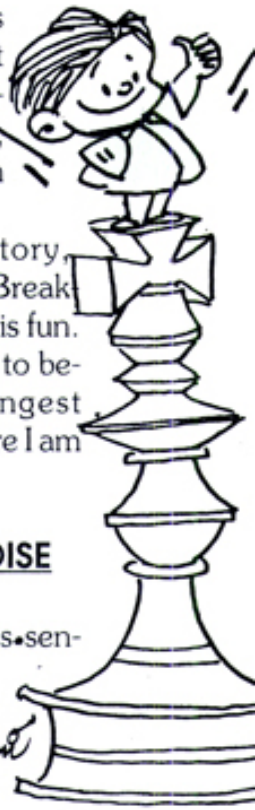
The giant loaf was baked using 121 kg. flour, 30 kg. sugar, 70 kg. ghee and four kg. salt.

BREAKING WORLD RECORD

Ten-year-old UK-based Tamilian, Murugan Tiruchelvam, set a world record. He became the youngest chess player to beat a grandmaster. He defeated the English grandmaster, Mr. Jonathan Levitt, in 72 moves.

The previous record holder, American Hikaru Nakamura, was older by 10 days when he beat former US champion grandmaster, Arthur Biguier in 1998.

After the victory, Murugan said, "Breaking world records is fun. Now, I would like to become the youngest grandmaster before I am 14 years old."



KILLER TORTOISE

A tortoise was sentenced to death for murder. Tribal elders in a village in Kenya, formally condemned the tortoise because they suspected it of causing the death of six people by magic.

Since none of the villagers were prepared to risk the anger of the tortoise, it was chained to a tree instead.

The tortoise was later freed after the government promised an official enquiry into the deaths.

COSTLY FISH

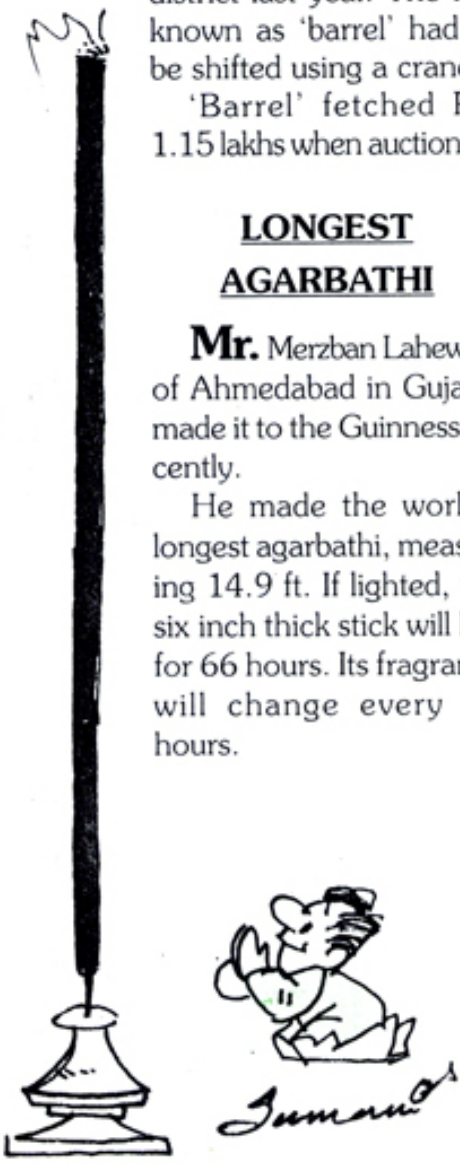
A giant fish weighing about 10 tonnes, was washed ashore at the Veraval port in Junagadh district last year. The fish known as 'barrel' had to be shifted using a crane.

'Barrel' fetched Rs. 1.15 lakhs when auctioned.

LONGEST AGARBATHI

Mr. Merzban Lahewala of Ahmedabad in Gujarat made it to the Guinness recently.

He made the world's longest agarbathi, measuring 14.9 ft. If lighted, the six inch thick stick will last for 66 hours. Its fragrance will change every 22 hours.



CAR-EATING ROBOT

"Robosaurus" described as the world's only 'car-nivorous' monster prepared to crush and incinerate a Sedan during a rehearsal.

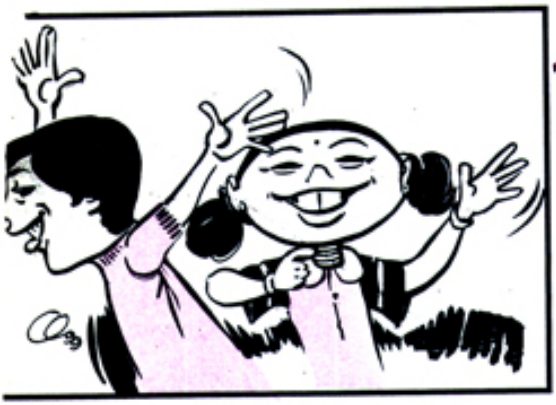
The rehearsal was for the Royal Easter show at Sydney, the Olympic site for the year 2000.

The 27-tonne hi-tech hydraulic robot built in the US is seven metres high and is operated by a pilot who sits in the Robosaurus' head.

UNIQUE SCHOOLS

UP has 230 Sanskrit schools. Each school has only 10 students. None of the 125 secondary Sanskrit schools in the state appeared for the board exams in 1997.

Suresh K. Anjum, Calcutta.



PUZZLES

ANSWERS

NAMES OF RIVERS

M	I	S	S	I	S	S	I	P	P	I	J
I	U	Z	A	I	R	E	E	I	O	H	X
S	D	R	B	L	B	I	N	G	E	D	G
S	U	P	R	U	Z	D	G	L	N	O	D
O	S	A	N	A	U	D	U	U	N	A	T
U	C	A	D	S	Y	M	B	I	W	S	G
R	D	T	S	D	A	R	L	I	N	G	C
I	R	E	V	A	K	E	R	H	I	N	E
A	R	T	U	P	A	M	H	A	R	B	V
V	I	S	T	U	L	A	A	P	R	O	T

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1 E	2 A	R	3 T	H	■	4 L	■	5 S
■	C	■	E	■	6 F	O	O	T
7 T	H	I	N	■	■	N	■	E
■	E	■	8 S	I	9 N	G	L	E
10 S	■	■	E	■	O	■	■	R
11 P	A	12 R	R	O	T	■	13 D	■
E	■	I	■	■	14 I	B	E	X
15 E	A	S	T	■	C	■	E	■
D	■	E	■	16 M	E	R	R	Y

HISTORY - MYSTERY

1. 1947
2. 1948
3. 1914
4. 1918
5. 1939
6. 1945
7. 1972
8. 1964
9. 1952
10. 1964
11. 1960

AN 'IRON' QUIZ

1. Lady
2. Maiden
3. Chancellor
4. Age
5. Curtain
6. Bark
7. Lung
8. Side
9. Cross

Communication is impossible without **LANGUAGES**

100!

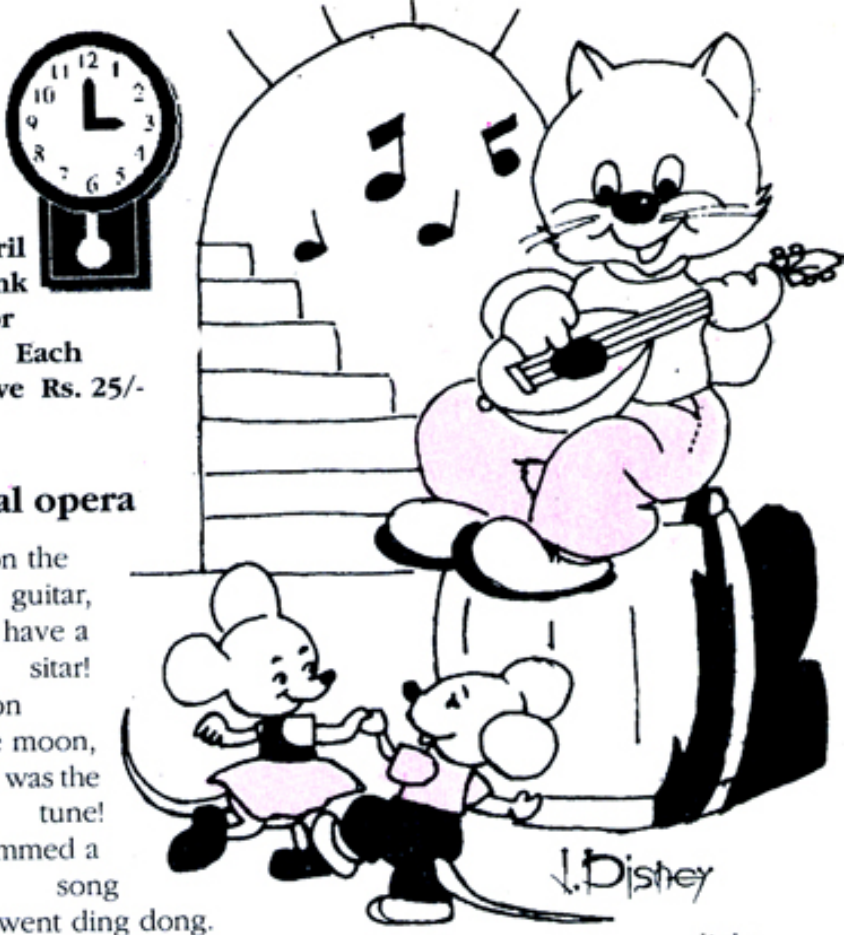
At a fair, there was a game stall with numbers 9, 12, 21, 26, 30, 39, 41 and 45. Anyone who could knock over figures totalling exactly 100 would win a prize. Can you win?

Vageesh, age 12,
Lisieux Matric Hr. School.
Coimbatore.

Solution :
12, 21, 26, 41 are the only numbers that will give 100 when added.

WRITE A POEM CONTEST

Here are the winning entries of the contest announced in April '99 issue. We thank all participants for their enthusiasm. Each winner will receive Rs. 25/- by M.O.



The musical opera

A cat played on the guitar,
Since he didn't have a sitar!
He strummed on seeing the moon,
Oh! How lovely was the tune!
The cat, he hummed a song
And the clock went ding dong.
The mouse and his dear wife
Emerged from the hole,
They danced to the song,
For them the night was long.
The mouse longed for cheese and wine,
They raided the larder to dine.
Fruits, nuts and chocolates
Formed a part of their meal.
Delighted they gave a squeal,
The cat to their delight
Did not notice them in the dim light.
He sang on to his heart's content
With a note which surely did enchant.
The cat saw the morning star
And laid away the guitar.
He espied the mouse couple
Celebrating on a cushion so supple.
To catch them he made a leap,
And began another game in the cellar deep.

Karthik Krishnan, age 13,
DAV PS, N. Delhi.

The cat and the fiddle

When the cat played the fiddle,
It produced a lovely jingle.
The cute mouse with a dimple,

And her silly friend with a pimple,
Danced to the tune, quite simple,
And the cat looked on with eyes that twinkled.

All this commotion,
Caused the sun to look up in confusion.

When it learnt that it was a celebration,
It joined the fun-filled association,
Creating a great sensation,
And the audience gave a standing ovation.

Throughout the day, they sang and danced,
Happily they jumped, ran and pranced.

Deepa Ramanathan, age 13,
SBOA School, Coimbatore.

The new house

For the mice the new house was nice,
They could eat anything from sugar to rice.

In the store room they were hiding,
They spent time jumping and running.

Whatever they found, into it they prod,
For the house-owner had gone abroad.

One fine day when the house-owner came back,
He located the mice in the rice sack.

After pondering for a while as to what to do,
He realised the presence of a cat to be due.

The next day along with him came a cat,
On seeing it, the mice hid themselves pat.

The mice emerged during the night,
With whatever courage they had garnered.

The cat chased them with all its might,
And was delighted to have them cornered.

The mice were planning to escape for good,
Or else they might become the cat's food.

What was their last wish, the cat asked the mice,
Music and dance would be nice, said the mice.

Soon the cat started playing the guitar,
With the music, the mice danced at par.

So much was the cat engrossed in the same,

That the mice escaped and won
'the cat-and-the-mouse' game.

N.P. Akshyashree, age 14,
Adarsh Vidhyalaya, MHSS,
Chennai.

The lute to the rescue

Squeak, came a little sound,
In deep slumber, the cat was found.
But she woke, her ears raised,
Ahead of her two mice stood face to face.
With a gleam in her eyes, she knew it was dinner,
She licked her lips, for they were near.
In a second, she pounced on the two,
But she messed with her aim, and fell through.
The innocent mice, struck with terror,
Stared at the cat, their eyes round with horror.
Down to the cellar, the mice ran fast.
Followed closely by the hungry cat.
Cornered, they squeaked anticipating pain,
To their surprise from their efforts they did gain.
Their cries for mercy stopped the cat,
It had a change of heart.
It picked up the lute lying nearby,
And sat on a barrel with a happy smile.
As the cat played music, in the middle of the 'noon,
The mice danced about, to the

happy tune.

P.R. Arun, age 14,
Christ Nagar HS, Trivandrum.

A day with us

Come and enjoy like us,
Make your life full of happiness.
What a great day it is,
Full of tune and twanginess
"I am singing," said the cat
"But I am dancing," said the rat.
"We are enjoying," said both one by one,
Neither noticed that there was anotherone.
"Don't forget me," said a little rat,
She was the babe who loved to prat.
"Take care" cautioned her mother,
But no one in the world seem to bother.

Madhulika Mohanty, Class VI,
EMMS-G, Bhilai.

THEN THE RAIN

"I wish it would rain," said grandmother as she looked at the sky. "It has been hot for weeks. Only rain will bring relief from the heat."

The sky was clear. The sun blazed like a ball of fire. Even the air felt hot.

"When will it rain?" asked Vicky.

"When God wills," grandmother sighed. "Lie down under the fan, dear, and get some sleep. By the time you get up, it will be a little cool. Then you may go out and play with your friends."

Vicky was not sleepy. But he always did as grandmother told him to.

"Duststorm!" came loud voices from outside. "Duststorm!"

Vicky rushed to the window and looked out. A cloud of dust was spreading in the sky. The sun looked pale. Soon there was more dust in the air. The day grew almost dark.

"Close the window," said grandmother, "or the room will be full of dust."

Vicky obeyed. Some children were out in the dusty gusts and seemed to be having fun. He wanted to join them. But he knew grandmother would not let him go.

He looked at the sky again. There was nothing but dust, dark brown dust, up there. The wind made strange noises too. Sometimes there were sounds of things rattling or falling down.

After some time there was a let up. The sky became less dusty and there was more light.

"I am going out to play with my friends," said Vicky as he made for the door. Grandmother did not object.

It was cool outside. The children had gathered on the lawn between the blocks. They were talking and

laughing.

Vicky looked up. The dust was nearly gone. In its place were clouds. They moved in the sky like a merry crowd in a vast field.

There was a flash of lightning. Thunder followed.

"It is going to rain," said someone. "It is going to rain," repeated several others together.

The clouds, darker than before, covered the sky. There were more flashes of lightning and more claps of thunder. Then came the rain in cool, nice drops. The

CAME

children shouted with joy.

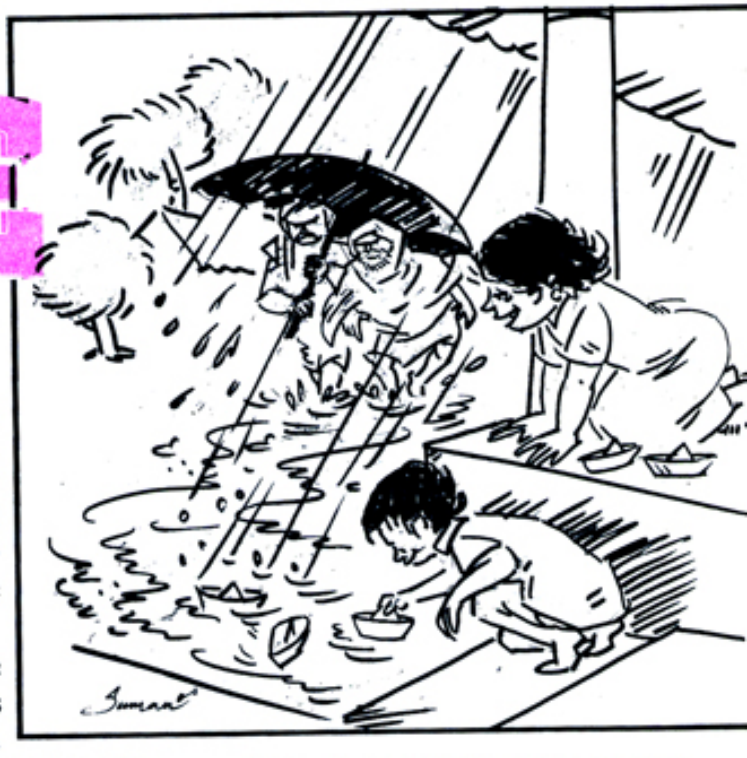
Soon the rain was falling in light showers. The children were delighted as it cooled their faces. They stretched their hands to receive more of it.

A sweet smell rose from the dry ground as the water seeped into it. Before long the dry dust turned to mud.

The rain washed off all the dust that had been sticking to the trees for days. Their leaves looked fresh and clean.

The lawn was wet. The paths going by it were wet. The blocks on both sides were wet. The children were wet too. But they enjoyed it. Rain was fun, so much fun. Everywhere there were puddles. At many places the water ran in little streams. The leaves were drenched. One or two pedestrians who held umbrellas appeared very pleased.

Then the rain slackened, and finally stopped. The rain took away all the dust with it. Everything seemed to have been washed clean. The very air was clean and cool.



The hot and dusty summer was over. A nice new season, the rainy season, was in.

O.P. Bhagat,
N. Delhi.

SPORTS

• Ganguli

WORLD CUP

India managed to enter the super six category with no points to its credit. The worst blow came when India lost to Australia. Mc Grath proved deadlier than our bowlers. Australia has managed to sail into the semi-finals with six points.

It is disappointing because India managed a 300 plus runs in all the matches it played. Also, Indian batsmen were the only batsmen who managed to score centuries in the league matches they played. Yet, India is the only team which did not have even one point to its credit!

We did not go to the World Cup with the definite hopes of winning the cup. Yet, we did not expect such a dismal performance. A look at our scores prove that India is a surefire performer. That has not been enough. Indian bowlers have not contained runs. Nor have the players fielded well.

Dives and leaps in the air for a ball going for a six or a four are a must. Our fielders have been miserable at this. Some bowlers have been easy with wides and no balls. A strange record that India set in this World Cup is the number of extras it gave away. A record 51 in just one match! This millennium's last World Cup is memorable for India, indeed.

• Jadeja

Almost all top-order batsmen have scored a century. Yet they have not been able to take India anywhere.

If you thought your favourite batsman who scored a century and a half in the previous match would

do an encore, you would be sadly mistaken. He will walk to the pavilion with a zero!

TENNIS

In all the hue and cry about cricket, the nation almost forgot this sport. The tennis duo Mahesh Bhoopathy and Leander Paes have romped home with the French Open title for doubles. A feather in their cap. The two have made India proud. Individually, neither have been able to hold on to their title. Let us hope and pray that the two of them also make it to the singles event.

• Graf

• Agassi

• Paes and Bhoopathy

Goran Ivanisevic is a difficult man to win. That Mahesh Bhoopathy and Leander Paes beat him speaks for the talent of Indian players.

Steffi Graf defeated Martina Hingis in the finals of the French Open. This is Graf's first Grand Slam since 1996. The men's title was claimed by Andre Agassi.

NEWS

News! News! News!
Full of issues,
BBC, CNN, Doordarshan,
Filled with people's views,
All of different hues.
News, views, entertainment, sports,
Clouds of rain, all about weather,
Prime Minister's speech from the Red fort,
All issues jumbled together,
News! News! News!

C.S. Hari Haran, age 13,
Jubilee School,
Bangalore

AVAL QUICKIE

You need :

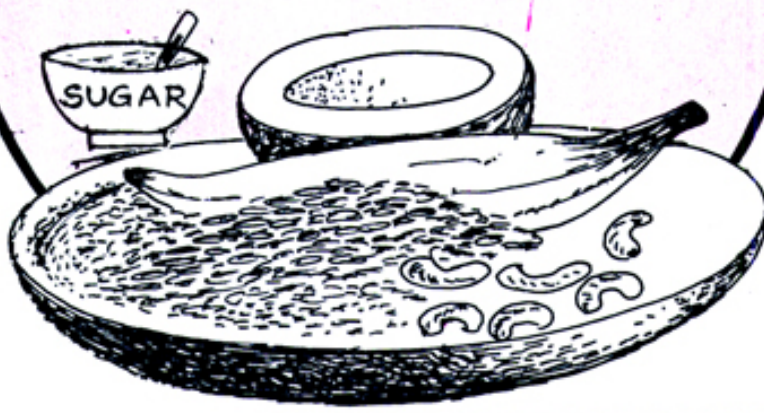
Thin beaten rice (Aval) - 1 cup
Sugar - 1½ tbsp
Salt - a pinch
Roasted cashews - 1 tbsp (optional)
Grated coconut - 2 tbsp
Ripe plantain - 1 (sliced)

Method :

Wash thin beaten rice. Drain the water. Add sugar, salt, grated coconut and roasted cashews. Mix thoroughly. Transfer to a serving bowl and decorate with plantain slices.

H. Srinandhini, Std IX A
ASSISA Matriculation HSS, Chennai.

BUDDING CHEF



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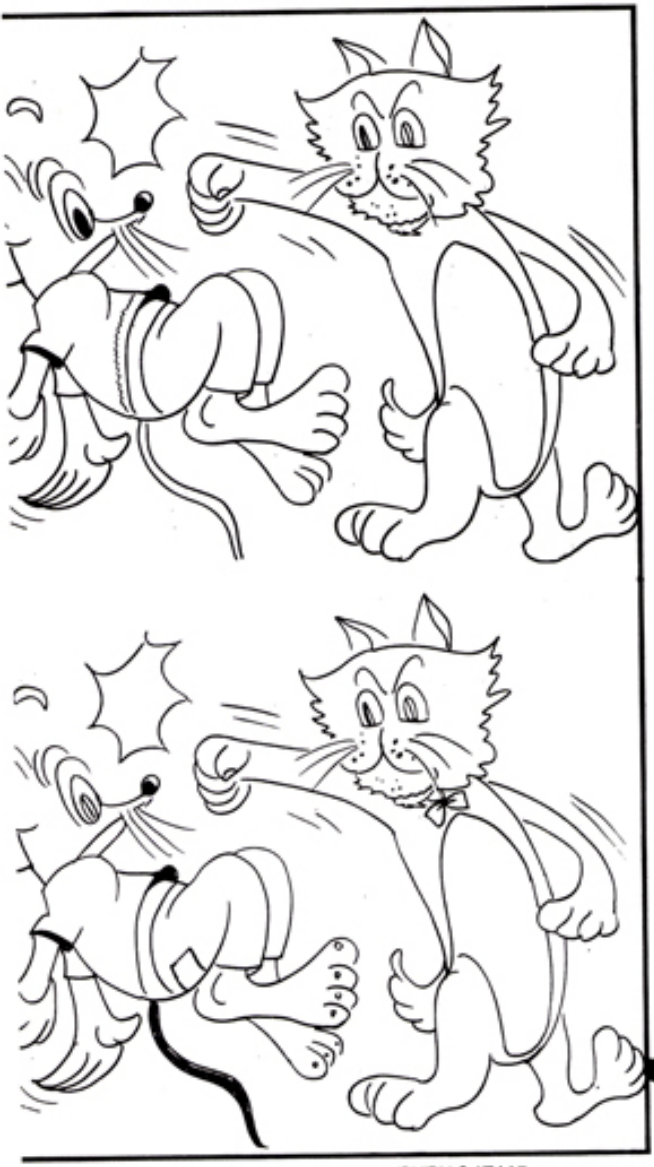
PUZZLE

SPOT THE 7 DIFFERENCES

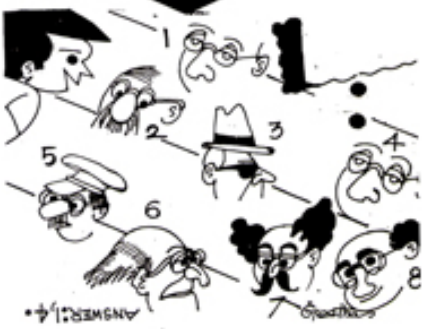


1. Believe in the best
2. Let's make things better
3. Communication unlimited
4. Connecting people
5. Take life as it comes
6. The way you want to be
7. Trust the coolest one
8. Smart wash
9. Don't mess with me
10. Let's talk leadership

P. Karthik, age 12,
K.V. Gillnagar, Chennai

Answers : 1. BPL, 2. Philips, 3. Siemens, 4. Nokia, 5. Zero shirts, 6. Digjam, 7. Kelvinator, 8. Godrej, 9. Bajaj KB125, 10. Bharati Enterprises

FIND THE SPECTACLES THAT ARE ALIKE



ANSWER: 1, 4.

An absent-minded man was going around the revolving door. "Help me" he said, "I can't remember if I was going in or coming out!"

Noble, Chennai

Answers : 1. Bow, 2. Tail, 3. Nails, 4. Pocket, 5. Design on the coat, 6. Eyes, 7. Number of fingers in rat's hand

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